

THE TIMES

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20p

Tomorrow

Thatcher... As the Tories rally round at Blackpool, Fiona MacCarthy reviews Penny Junor's new biography of Margaret Thatcher.



...and Co Economic policy, employment, defence: the Tory timetable at the conference

Turning in The Times Profile: Radio 3

Turning out Stuart Jones and David Miller report on England's crucial European Championship match against Hungary in Budapest

Looking back 1984 and all that: a new look at Orwell's chilling words

Monetary growth on target

Monetary growth is back on target after the Government's main measure of money supply fell for the first time in four years. Sterling M3 fell half a percentage point last month. But state spending and borrowing are still well ahead of plans.

Stock exchange backs reform

Members of the Stock Exchange voted overwhelmingly in favour of a resolution which will allow lay members to sit on the Council of the Stock Exchange for the first time.

Howe happy

EEC ministers in Athens were able to agree only that reforms needed further detailed study by experts. Sir Geoffrey Howe alone detected real progress.



New Jaguar

Jaguar unveiled its first open-topped sports car since the E-type went out of production.

Airbus order

British Caledonian is the first airline to order the European Airbus A320. Three of the seven 150-seaters will be delivered in 1988.

China joins

China has been admitted to membership of the International Atomic Agency, which operates safeguards and inspections on civil nuclear reactors.

Carson banned

Willie Carson, the former champion jockey, was suspended for 12 days by the Jockey Club for careless riding at Beverley last month.

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Letters: On Mr Parkinson, from Mr A B Ducker, and others; Government's record, from Mr Bryan Gould, MP
Leading articles: Law and order; Tories and defence; South Korea
Features, pages 10-12
James Prior defends his role as government gadfly; Bernard Levin on a theatre of the absurd; the British Library white elephant. Spectrum watches this top Tory woman
Australia: a four-page Special Report on the performance of the new Labour government under Bob Hawke 17-20

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Police killers will serve at least 20 years - Brittan

- Minimum 20-year sentences are to be imposed on certain killers under proposals announced by Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary.
- Mr Peter Walker, the Secretary of State for Energy, has reaffirmed the Government's commitment to coal mining and disputed claims that it wants to destroy the industry.
- Miss Sara Keays, who is expecting Mr Cecil Parkinson's baby, narrowly missed becoming the Conservative candidate at the Southwark, Bermondsey by-election.
- Conservatives remain divided over whether Mr Parkinson should resign. He was praised for his election work and condemned as a "self-confessed adulterer".
- The Government is considering giving tenants of charities the right to buy their homes, Mr Ian Gow, Minister for Housing, announced.
- No workable alternative system of loyal taxation has emerged to replace rates, Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, said.

From Anthony Bevis, Political Correspondent, Blackpool

Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, presented the Conservative Party Conference at Blackpool yesterday with measures that will ensure that about five hundred hard-core killers and violent offenders will spend extended terms in prison.

But, in a highly delicate political operation, delivered before a notoriously hardline audience, Mr Brittan managed to temper his toughness with more than a touch of mercy for non-violent offenders. That mercy could lead eventually to an overall reduction of 2,000 in the prison population, which is now 44,163.

It was a measure of the Home Secretary's skill that by last night he had won the endorsement of right-wing Tory backbenchers and of Mr Robert Kilroy-Glik, the Labour chairman of the all-party Parliamentary Penal Affairs Group.

Mr Brittan failed to win a standing ovation, but the applause was adequate vindication of his balancing act. Representatives appeared willing to suspend judgment despite their undoubted frustration at Parliament's failure to reintroduce capital punishment.

Union steps up fight against Telecom

Further disruptive action affecting government and business communications will be taken by the Post Office Engineering Union (POEU) this week as part of their fight against the privatisation of British Telecom (BT).

Leaders of the union were last night called to a meeting with Sir George Jefferson, chairman of BT to discuss deteriorating industrial relations.

By yesterday between 2,000 and 2,500 members of the union were in dispute with BT. Around 1,600 have been involved in action in international telephone exchanges. The rest have been taking action against Mercury, the private communications network.

Details of the new disruptive action were being kept secret by the executive of POEU, but international satellite links and telex operations are known to be prime targets. City institutions who may be involved in the intended flotation of BT can expect to be singled out.

British Telecom reported yesterday that international telephone exchanges were back to normal with the help of senior management. But the union contended that there was widespread disruption affecting the Middle and Far East and Africa. The situation was deteriorating, POEU said.

The 1600 engineers in international exchanges were sent home at the end of last week after working to rule since the previous Monday. This Monday many of them refused to sign a document pledging that they would obey management instructions and were then suspended.

The rest of the trade unionists in dispute work mainly in the three London inland exchanges. Some of these have been sent home for refusing to connect the BT network to Mercury. Others were deemed to be taking industrial action by management for refusing to sign the document.

Packing up troubles in a Marine's kitbag

From Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent, Saros Bay, Turkey

Many Royal Marines on a Nato exercise in Turkey are carrying up to £150 worth of their own equipment because they say their standard issue kit is unsatisfactory.

Several complained of a combat boot first issued last year, which they claim falls apart after a few months. That was demonstrated yesterday by a member of 40 Commando, who lay in a Turkish field and put a knife between the sole and upper.

The Marines are taking part in an exercise called "Display Determination" and are advancing inland after an amphibious landing with Turkish forces on the northern shores of Saros Bay, within sight of the Gallipoli peninsula.

Apart from concerns with their boots, several have bought their own rucksacks for about £80 because they say the standard issue bag is too small and uncomfortable.

Other complaints concern the solid fuel stove, which they say is smoky and smelly, and waterproof equipment. Some have bought camping gas stoves for £15 and waterproof jackets for £40. With other privately-bought equipment such as mess tins and socks, the outlay can total £150.

Some even spent a further £50 special underwear when operating in Arctic conditions.

But the boot is the really painful story for the Marines. They claim that although 17,000 pairs were rejected last year because of manufacturing defects, the new ones still fall apart.

A Royal Marine spokesman in Britain admitted there were some drawbacks in equipment, but added: "In general our total package is better than most armies. In 14 years' service I have never had to buy any equipment."

He said one of the problems was that they had to compromise because they could not use Arctic equipment in the Mediterranean and vice versa. He added that a new rucksack that could be separated to enable a man to change rapidly into fighting order was to be issued soon.



Mr Brittan announcing his measures at Blackpool (Photograph: Brian Harris)

Miss Keays 'nearly the Bermondsey candidate'

By Richard Dowden

Miss Sara Keays, Mr Cecil Parkinson's former secretary who is expecting his child in January, narrowly missed becoming the Conservative parliamentary candidate in last February's by-election in Southwark, Bermondsey, after the local party executive was persuaded to reopen the selection process.

Miss Keays had lost the nomination by one vote to Mr Peter Davis. A week after that selection conference, Mr Robert Mottish, the Labour MP, resigned, and forced a by-election. Mr Davis decided to stand again, but his resignation prevented him from fighting the by-election and resigned.

Some members of the local party executive, some sources say a majority, wanted Miss Keays to assume the candidature. However, at a meeting of the nine members of the executive on November 2, attended by the party agent, Miss Rose Freeman, and an official from the Conservative Central Office, it was decided to go through a full selection process.

A short list was drawn up with three names: Mr John Maples, Mr Tony Patterson and Mr Robert Hughes. The eventual candidate, had been asked to put his name forward by Mr Ian MacLeod, the area party chairman. Miss Keays's name was not on that initial list but was added to it after the party had interviewed between 30 and 40 potential candidates.

Miss Betty North, chairman of the Southwark and Bermondsey Constituency Conservative Association, said yesterday that she could not remember whether the representative from Central Office had argued in favour of reopening selection or simply adopting Miss Keays.

Among the reasons given by local party members for Miss Keays's failure to secure the nomination are that they did not want a woman to stand against Mr Peter Tatchell, the Labour candidate; that she did not know enough about inner cities; that she was using the candidature to gain experience and that she intended to move on.

However, her supporters felt that she was the "local" candidate of a constituency party that was strongly independent and this should have earned her the nomination.

Mr MacLeod, London area chairman, stressed the need for a strong candidate in urging Mr Hughes to run. He pointed out that the Conservative party had had two bad by-election results, at Crosby and in Peckham, where weak candidates were thought to have played a part.

Mr Ian MacLeod, chairman of the Greater London Area Conservatives, said in Blackpool last night: "At no time did the local party receive instructions from me that anything other than the proper procedures for reselection should take place."

"There was no question of any second-placed person, whoever that might be, being offered the chance."

"In accordance with National Union model rules a complete reselection would be necessary. Constituency parties jealously guard their autonomy. It is common knowledge that any 'direction' from Central Office is tantamount to a kiss of death."

The continuing division of opinion within the Conservative Party as to whether Mr Cecil Parkinson should stay in office or resign was painfully exposed yesterday (Julian Haviland, Our Political Editor, writes).

His achievements as chairman were warmly applauded by most representatives on the

Continued on back page, col 6

Martin jailed for 25 years

David Martin, who spent nearly three months on the run after wounding a policeman, was jailed for 25 years yesterday.

At the Central Criminal Court Mr Justice Kilner-Brown told him: "Those who carry loaded guns in order to shoot their way out of impending arrest or with that intention must expect very severe sentences indeed and that is what you are going to get."

The jury of seven men and five women, after 11 hours of deliberation, had found Martin guilty on four charges and acquitted him on the remaining 10.

The judge gave him a 15-year sentence for causing grievous bodily harm to police constable Nicholas Carr with intent to resist arrest on August 5 last year; and 10 years for having two firearms with intent to resist arrest on September 15, 1982. He directed that those sentences should run consecutively.

Martin, aged 36, of Crawford Place, Marylebone, London, was also given 10 years for the theft of £25,000 from a security van in London's Cannon Street on July 29 last year, and five years for burglary at offices in Bonhill Street, City of London, between January 18 and 25 this year - both sentences to run concurrently.

Earlier, in the 15-day trial a charge of attempting to murder PC Carr was dropped on the judge's direction. He described as callous Martin's threat to put a second bullet into the officer.

Martin showed no emotion as the verdicts and sentences were announced.

A skilled burglar, who admitted to the jury that he often dressed as a woman, Martin intended never to be returned to jail where he has already spent a quarter of his life. He said he was prepared to do anything - even shoot himself - to avoid arrest.

When finally tracked down in a London underground tunnel on January 23 this year, he surrendered in a "suicide walk" defiantly refusing to raise his arms in the air as instructed by armed police officers.

Mr Lawrence, QC, defending, said Martin tended towards suicide, partly because of his obsession with his girlfriend and partly because he could not stand the thought of another long term in prison.

After the case, Martin's father, Mr Ralph Martin, said outside the court: "If I had a gun I'd go and shoot the judge myself." He said the sentences were "ridiculous".

Mr Martin had sat in the public gallery throughout the trial and when the sentences were passed today he leapt to his feet, apparently trying to snatch a glimpse of his son before he was led away. He was told by a policeman to sit down.

Contempt for authority, page 3

Police kill Korean in Burma

Rangoon (Reuters) - Burmese police claimed to have killed one Korean terrorist, captured another and to be seeking a third, after the bomb blast here in which 20 people died.

A government announcement last night gave no details of the Koreans, and did not say whether they came from North or South Korea.

The captured Korean was seriously wounded when a grenade he tried to throw at his pursuers exploded at Bagan-daung Creek in eastern Rangoon on Monday night. The alarm had been raised by local residents, who reported seeing a man swimming down the creek.

A second incident occurred when villages in Thakurpin, six miles north-west of Rangoon, informed police about two suspicious-looking foreigners. The two men were arrested but one of them managed to throw a grenade which wounded three policemen. Police shot and killed him, but the other Korean escaped.

Photograph, page 5
Leading article, page 15

Ulster yard seeks 'lost' £4m contract

From Our Correspondent Belfast

Harland & Wolff, the Belfast shipbuilders, are likely to make a bid today to take over the £4m share of a Ministry of Defence order for the Falkland Islands which Sunderland Shipbuilders, the Weirside subsidiary of British Shipbuilders has surrendered because of a three-week unofficial strike.

Only last week H & W announced that they had a separate share of the project to build a floating harbour for Port Stanley. The entire "flexiport" is due for delivery in only 14 weeks.

Yesterday, Harland & Wolff chairman Mr John Parker said: "We have already been asked whether we could take on Sunderland Shipbuilders' share. Clearly, it is something we will have to decide within 24 hours. My main concern is whether we could complete it within 14 weeks without prejudicing work on the part of the project we already have."

"Public memories are short and if we missed the delivery date people would not recall that it was because Sunderland Shipbuilders had a strike, it would simply be noted as Harland & Wolff falling down", said Mr Parker.

He said he was to spend the afternoon seeing whether a local Northern Ireland consortium could be put together.

Jobs at the Pallion yard in Sunderland are certain to be lost when the strike ends, Mr Eric Welsh, the managing director of the company, said yesterday.

Three initiatives by the Confederation of Shipbuilding & Engineering Unions to end the deadlock have failed and the 2,000 strikers, angry about a productivity payment made to 40 crane drivers at the yard, have ignored pleas to return to work.

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Social workers vote to step up action in pay and hours battle

By Alan Hamilton

Delegates representing 25,000 residential social workers yesterday voted to extend their industrial action which has disrupted the lives of many hundreds of children in local authority care throughout Britain.

At a conference called by the National and Local Government Officers' Association (NALGO) in London, the 250 representatives voted overwhelmingly that, if a meeting with the local authority employers next Monday did not produce a satisfactory pay offer, they would give union branches the authority to call selective strikes, work strictly to office hours, resist the employment of temporary staff, ban the movement of children to other homes, and refuse to sleep overnight in the homes where they are employed.

For the past four weeks the social workers, who staff council homes for children, old people and the mentally handicapped, have been operating an overtime ban and a ban on new admissions in support of a long-standing claim for a shorter working week and better pay for shift and weekend working.

The local authority employers' joint body said yesterday that it deeply regretted the decision, which would increase

the risk of harm to those in care least able to look after themselves. Yesterday's union decision was preceded by a 24-hour strike by all 270 residential social workers from 23 local authority homes in Sheffield.

In the London Borough of Lambeth, one of the most seriously affected by the dispute because of the heavy demand on social services and the high number of unfilled vacancies, local council officials have admitted that children have on several occasions been left in their homes over weekends with no adult supervision, and only the telephone number of a senior social worker to call in an emergency.

Mr Hugh Williams, spokesman for the Lambeth branch of NALGO, said that "on three or four occasions" children aged 13 and upwards had been left unsupervised over weekends, under the nominal supervision of a resident of the home, aged 19.

It had first happened at the council's home at West Norwood, but had been repeated at other homes which both the union and Lambeth Council declined to name. "We are very unhappy about this, but it is up to the council to provide supervision," Mr Williams said.

Lambeth has closed 11 children's homes for the duration of the dispute, and has

placed about 120 children with foster parents, or in privately-run charitable homes, sometimes in the country away from London.

Mr Michael Blick, chairman of NALGO's local government committee, said yesterday that if there was an escalation after next Monday's talks, it would be entirely the employers' responsibility. The union, he said, had tried to minimize the effect on those who lived in council homes, while maximizing the cost and inconvenience to the councils.

Some local authorities, notably Strathclyde and Staffordshire, have been trying to hire large numbers of temporary staff to help to run their homes during the dispute. Lambeth's policy has been not to hire any outside workers, but to find the children alternative accommodation where possible.

So far the dispute has had no noticeable effect on the borough's homes for the elderly and the mentally handicapped, because fewer of the relevant social worker grades are employed in them. However, some mentally handicapped children in Lambeth have been moved from children's homes.

Some local union officials have been surprised at the hard line taken by the left-wing council in Lambeth.



High stakes: James Mallett, aged 14, from Gloucester the youngest winner of Britain's Monopoly finals, meeting Mr Gerald Marks commercial councillor at the US Embassy in London, before heading for the World Monopoly Championships in Miami.

BCal order boosts airbus prospects

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

British Caledonian Airways, the country's largest private airline, has become the launch customer for the European Airbus A320, the planned 150-seat jet, whose future is still dependent on big investments by the governments of Britain and West Germany.

Sir Adam Thomson, the airline's chairman, confirmed yesterday that it had placed a £150m order for seven A320s, three for delivery in the spring of 1988 and the remainder in 1989, with an option to buy a further three.

The decision comes after a recent announcement by British Airways that it preferred to lease existing Boeing aircraft to replace its fleet of noisy Trident 1s rather than commit itself to firm orders for the A320 or any other contender in the potential market for 150-seat aircraft that is expected to develop by the end of the decade.

While it waits for the A320s, BCal is to spend about £500,000 on each of its 14 BAC 1-11 jets so that they conform to new noise legislation, are fitted with "blind landing" capability, and are equipped with new seats and galleys.

The order has given the A320 a boost at a time when the depressed world aerospace industry was regarding 150-seat projects with scepticism. It will also spur the British Government into making a decision on whether to provide up to £400m

of launch aid to British Aerospace, which manufactures wings for the Airbus Industrie consortium (AI).

BA has a 20 per cent stake in Airbus Industrie with the French and West German industries each holding 37.9 per cent. Air France and the domestic carrier Air Inter have ordered 35 A320s with options to buy 35 more, but until now, British and West German carriers have held back.

BCal has already ordered three A310 wide-bodied Airbus aircraft while British Airways has stuck to American aircraft. Sir Adam Thomson said yesterday: "By putting our colours to the Airbus, we are confident that BCal will become the catalyst to bring the very latest European aircraft manufacturing venture into successful reality."

The initial A320s for BCal will be powered by General Electric's CFM 56-4 engines but, significantly, the airline said it had not ruled out the possibility of equipping future planes with the proposed IAE2500 engine being developed by a five-nation consortium in which Britain's Rolls-Royce is a partner.

The advanced, fuel-efficient engine is also awaiting launch aid decisions which could cost the British government another £400m.

'MI6 holiday' plot thickens

By Richard Evans and Richard Ford

A hoax holiday competition involving a middle-aged Dublin couple, Britain's security services and Irish terrorists turned into an Irish "who-dunnit" mystery last night.

Was it MI6 which set up Mr and Mrs Tony Hayde as the contest winners in order to extract information on Irish terrorist groups while the couple enjoyed their "prize" under the Torremolinos sun?

Or was it a deep-laid plot by the enemy to discredit British Intelligence?

From yesterday's revelations, it was possible to choose either conclusion.

Certainly, the allegations against MI6 gained strength when it was learnt that letters sent out in connection with the "free holiday prize" ostensibly from a holiday company called Casuro in fact bore the telephone number listed in internal Post Office records as belonging to No 60 Vauxhall Bridge Road, London, the London "station" of MI6. And the address on the letters was merely that of a mailbox company service, on the other side of London.

[Yesterday a call to that telephone number, 222 7443 was greeted by an answering machine.]

One of the letters went to a reputable Dublin firm, Melia

CASURO

3 ALDERMAR WAY
LONDON EC1V 6DX
Tel: 01-222 7443

The letterhead of the mysterious "holiday company".

Travel, booking a week's holiday for two at the Melia Costa Del Sol hotel in Spain. The other letter went to Mr and Mrs Hayde announcing they had won the week in Torremolinos as third prize in the - bogus - contest. The couple, who live in Walkinstown, Dublin, are founder members of the Irish Republican Socialist Party, political wing of the Irish National Liberation Army.

Melia Travel has confirmed not only that it received the holiday booking from "Casuro" - signed by "Frank Monte, marketing manager" - but also a banker's draft for £100. Melia confirmed the booking in writing to Casuro's London address and on September 2 this year received final payment of £100, along with instructions that the tickets should be sent to the Haydes.

Mr and Mrs Hayde say that after arriving in Torremolinos

they went out for dinner with the holiday courier and other "prize winners", who all later said they were involved with British Intelligence.

The couple, who admit to having met Dominic McGlinchey, allegedly INLA chief of staff and Ireland's most wanted man, say they were offered immediate cash and the promise of a further £10,000 in return for information.

Mr Hayde, aged 45, and his wife, Margaret, aged 41, declined, saying they knew nothing about terrorists. They immediately checked out of their holiday hotel.

Mr Matthew Corcoran, manager of Melia in Dublin, said that with hindsight the paperwork from Casuro looked a little strange. Another member of the firm said it was odd that Casuro had made no request for the 10 per cent discount due to travel agents.

Sale room

Birds show diminishing returns

Collectors of English watercolours demonstrated forcefully that they knew what they wanted at Christie's yesterday, bidding wildly beyond expectations for some items and leaving others alone. Decorative watercolours of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century were the top runners.

A private collector paid £10,800 (estimate £4,000 to £5,000) for an Archibald Thorburn watercolour of "A woodcock in the snow" dated 1924. It is an excellent example of the bird illustrator's work and makes a nice picture too, with the woodcock nestled in the snowy grass under a holly tree.

Christie's, however, had expected a covey of birds to fetch more than one bird. Thorburn's "The morning call" dated 1911, depicting a group of grouse waking up in the mountain heather, sold for £8,100 (estimate £6,000 to £8,000) to Richard Green, the London dealer.

Albert Goodwin, Helen Allingham and Miles Birker Foster were the other favourites with Goodwin's "Westminster from a house top" of 1915 selling for £10,260 (estimate £2,000 to £3,000) and Allingham's "Near Haslemere" for £5,480 (estimate £2,500 to £3,500).

These pictures all came from private sources and had not been seen on the market before.

At Phillips a fine late seventeenth century enamel and gold chased watch sold for £29,700 (estimate £10,000 to £15,000) to a private collector. It is signed by Jean Pierre Huad who worked with his brother for the court of Brandenburg.

Sotheby's printed book sale made £43,860. Quaritch, the book dealer, paid £1,155 (estimate £250 to £300) for a series of 26 bookseller's catalogues issued by Payne and Foss between 1799 and 1840.

Miners move closer to overtime ban

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

A national overtime ban may be mounted in the mining industry over the issue of pit closures, although there are signs that the National Union of Mineworkers will accept the coal board's "final" 5.2 per cent pay offer.

All branches of the union in the traditionally-moderate Lancashire coalfield have voted to support an overtime ban, the miners' customary way of starting a strike, and the militant coalfields such as Yorkshire, south Wales and Scotland are expected to follow.

A final decision on whether to engage in limited industrial action over the coal board's programme of accelerated pit closures will be taken at a special delegates' conference in London on October 21. Mr Sid Vincent, secretary of the Lancashire miners, said last night: "I think it will happen, because the board are just riding roughshod over us."

The union's executive meets in Sheffield tomorrow to determine its next move in the battle over pit closures, which the union seems powerless to prevent at present. In the past year, the board has shut, merged or is in the process of closing 23 pits and coking plants with the loss of 11,028 jobs.

There is less likelihood of a dispute over pay, however. The Lancashire area council of the union has recommended to branches that the men accept the board's offer of increases ranging from £4.90 to £6.80 a week. Lancashire is considered a reliable barometer of opinion in the coalfields and acceptance of the offer there suggests that it will go through nationally.

Kinnock ultimatum over health service debate

By John Winder

The Prime Minister has rejected Mr Neil Kinnock's first request, as Leader of the Opposition, for an early Commons debate on the health service.

Yesterday Mr Kinnock sent a strongly-worded request to Mrs Thatcher to reconsider her decision. He added that if the Prime Minister would not give way, the Opposition would use one of its days to hold a debate.

Recording his disappointment at Mrs Thatcher's response, Mr Kinnock wrote to Downing Street yesterday: "You appear to think that your Government has a credible record in health service matters and yet you will not give government time to presenting that record."

Mr Kinnock quotes recent

press reports of Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, feeling obliged to address a meeting of Conservative MPs on the matter and adds: "But it seems that he would not, without the prompting of the Labour Opposition and the facility offered by an opposition day, be fulfilling the same obligation to the public."

Last night Mr Kinnock was awaiting a reply from the Prime Minister.

A reproach to Mr Kinnock for hesitating to use opposition time to debate the health service was given last night by Mr Alan Beith, Liberal Chief Whip. He said: "If we had control of opposition time we should certainly use it for that purpose."

Why Britain wanted to bar Shamir from Palestine

No. 57 Top Secret.

Your Telegram No. 28.

Jewish terrorists at Jibuti.

Yesterday and Zehrovsky are among the most fanatical terrorist leaders and it is considered that imprisonment or detention is the only satisfactory means of preventing them.

Top secret: An Extract from the telegram dated 12th January 1948 urging detention of "Yesternitsky".

By Peter Hemmery

A Foreign Office file describing Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the new Prime Minister of Israel, as a "most fanatical terrorist" who should be prevented from fomenting "outrages" against British troops, is available for inspection at the Public Record Office in Kew, west London. It is preserved in documents on the last days of British Mandate in Palestine.

Mr Shamir was a leader of Lehi (Fighters for the Freedom of Israel), better known in Britain as the "Stern Gang", a breakaway faction of Irgun, which used terrorist methods against British forces in Palestine.

Mr Shamir, who operated under the cover name "Yesternitsky" (spelt "Yesternitsky" in the Foreign Office papers) was captured disguised as a rabbi in July 1946.

He was exiled to Eritrea where he was imprisoned. But he escaped with a colleague, "Zehrovsky", to French Somaliland.

In January 1948, the British authorities discovered the two men were about to leave for



Sir Alan Cunningham: Feared further outrages

Paris using forged Dominican passports. Diplomatic pressure was applied to the French to keep them in Djibouti.

Lieutenant-General Sir Alan Cunningham, British High Commissioner in Palestine, his forces dwindling as the end of the Mandate approached, was adamant that "Yesternitsky and Zehrovsky" should be kept out.

On January 12, 1948, he sent a top secret telegram to Mr Arthur Creech Jones, the Colonial Secretary, with copies

to the Foreign Office and MI5. It read:

"Yesternitsky and Zehrovsky are among the most fanatical terrorist leaders and it is considered that imprisonment or detention is the only satisfactory means of preventing them from planning and carrying out further outrages. Their departure from Jibuti for any destination would be a matter of grave concern to me, since once at large they would, I am sure, largely make their way to a place from which they could organize further terrorist activities."

In an interview with Lord Bethell, historian of the last days of the Mandate, Mr Shamir defended the Lehi tactic of assassinating individuals, mentioning the case of Sergeant T. G. Martin, the British military policeman who had penetrated the rabbi's disguise worn by him in July 1946. Lehi later assassinated Martin.

The "Yesternitsky" telegram can be found at the PRO in FO 371/68630. Mr Shamir's interview is reproduced in *The Palestine Triangle* by Nicholas Bethell (Andre Deutsch, £7.95).

Politics ban challenged

Government attempts to exclude political content from courses and projects in the £1,000m Youth Training Scheme will be challenged at a meeting today when attempts will be made to scrap the proposed guidelines. (Our Labour Correspondent writes.)

A meeting of the Youth Training Board, which advises the Manpower Service Commission on the operations of the YTS, will discuss calls from voluntary, educational, and youth organizations and the TUC that to follow the terms of a draft memorandum, published in *The Times* last month, would severely curtail some courses.

The meeting in Sheffield, which will be chaired by Mr David Young, commission chairman, will also hear that Mr Peter Morrison, Minister at the Department of Employment responsible for youth training, has indicated that he intends to ensure that politics are excluded from the YTS.

The Youth Training Board is likely to call on the minister to revise his proposed guidelines

Deaths despite urgent call over leukaemia

By Nicholas Timmins

Children and adults with leukaemia are dying waiting for bone marrow transplants 16 months after a government-backed study recommended urgent steps to improve facilities, doctors said yesterday.

The Black report on bone marrow transplantation which recommended proper health service funding for four centres in London and the creation of several centres outside London, was sent to Mr Kenneth Clarke, the Minister for Health, in June last year.

But the Department of Health confirmed that its supra-regional specialties advisory group, which is considering the recommendations, is to have its first detailed discussion on the issue on Friday.

The Black inquiry was set up after a public outcry over the fact that 97 children had died waiting for bone marrow transplants at Westminster Hospital, London.

The unit there uses transplantation to treat in-born errors and bone marrow failure as well as leukaemias.

Professor John Hobbs, Professor of Chemical Pathology at the hospital, said: "Since the

Black report the situation has got worse, not better."

Seven more children on the waiting list had died, he said. Another 15 had been taken off it because they had gone past the point where a transplant would work. "They will probably die in the near future as they all have fatal diseases."

The present waiting list was 45, he said, but the hospital had facilities to do only three or four transplants a month, although all the patients had donors available. "If I am realistic at least half these patients will not get a bone marrow transplant and it may be as many as two-thirds of them will just have to go and die."

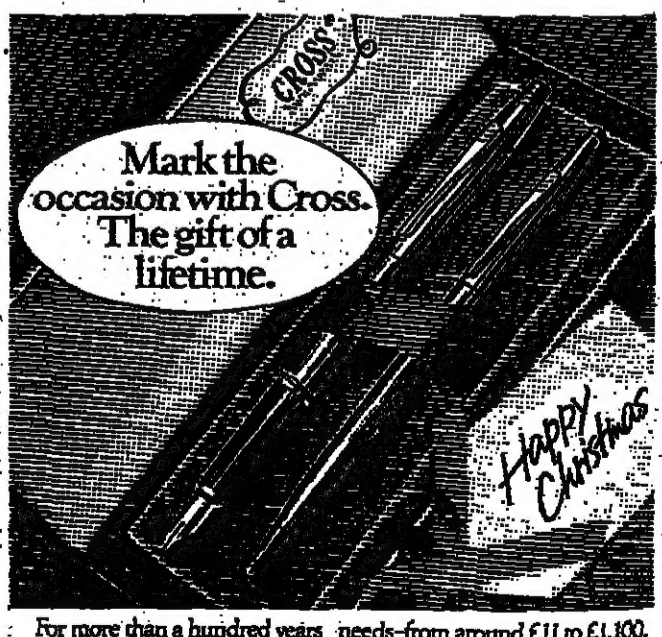
At the Royal Free Hospital in London a specialist six-bed leukaemia unit has remained closed since the hospital was built 10 years ago. The £150,000 a year needed for nursing staff has not been made available.

Dr Ray Powles, consultant physician at the Royal Marsden Hospital, the largest of the four London centres, said own unit has done 56 transplants in the past 12 months and has a waiting list of 35.

Correction

The director-general of the Association of Vehicle Recovery Operators is Mr John Wells, not Wains, as stated on October 8.

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Contempt for authority led David Martin to 25-year jail sentence

By John Withers

When David Martin was in prison, one story relates, the guards would regularly find his cell door open in the morning with Martin lying on his bunk, gazing at the ceiling and whistling nonchalantly.

The story illustrates two important influences in Martin's life that led him to notoriety and yesterday's prison sentence of 25 years: a remarkable ability with locks and an overriding contempt for authority.

The first facilitated a life of crime and the second, when coupled with a fascination with guns, turned him from a fleeting period into Britain's most wanted man.

But Martin's sudden elevation to the front pages came not as a result of his shooting of Police Constable Nicholas Carr on his daring escape from Marylebone Magistrates' Court, but because another man, Stephen Waldorf, was mistakenly shot by police instead of him.

It was that shooting, and the impending trial of two policemen, which cast a shadow over the trial of Martin and focused attention on a man who would normally get only a few column inches.

Everyone who knows Martin agrees that he is a strange, complicated personality. The police, used to dealing with "ordinary" criminals, were perplexed by his self-confessed transgressive nature.

They also found it hard to understand his total disregard for his own safety. One policeman said: "I couldn't relate to him. He's a cold guy, very calculating. He's different, intriguing even."

An acquaintance, asked what pushed Martin into crime, replied: "He's got a grudge against society and he vents it by breaking laws."

That grudge, which came through in his resentment and sarcasm while he was in the witness box, stems from Martin's personality and his deep grievance over an eight-year prison sentence he received for forgery and fraud.

According to the acquaintance, his attitude then became: "If they give me that sort of sentence for a trifle, I'll behave like a real criminal."

While he was inside he never accepted the prison regime and in 1974 took part in a mass escape from Brixton but he was recaptured in a taxi in Streatham. He received an extra 12 months and went on to serve a total of nine years, earning no remission.

While in prison he made 10 moves, and spent much of his time in top-security jails including Parkhurst in the Isle of Wight. Prison undoubtedly made a strong impact on Martin and in the opinion of the prosecution, may have made him prepared to use any means, including guns, to prevent his arrest and further confinement.

Before that Martin had drifted into petty crime, gradually getting convicted for more serious offences. The only child of a close family in north London, where his father was a plumber and fitter, Martin was caught stealing petrol and a motor cycle when he was 15.

Two years later he spent three months in a detention centre for punching a policeman during a fight outside a club. At school he passed O levels in physics, metalwork and technical drawing and worked later as a motor mechanic.

In 1969 he was sentenced to 21 months for fraud and handling stolen goods, and in 1973 he was sentenced to eight years. Martin emerged in September, 1981, and within months was again drawn to crime, but this time he started handling guns.

He used his ability with locks to break into several premises and became involved in video piracy. Then a friend suggested, according to Martin, that he take part in a cash snatch from a security van. It was soon after that raid, in which Martin said he did not know his accomplice had guns, that he shot PC Carr during a struggle.

Before the shooting Martin gave the police the name of David Demain, a pseudonym that he often used. In retrospect, as Martin pointed out in the box, it seemed surprising that the police took another six weeks to trace him to his flat in Crawford Place, just off the Edgware Road in west London. He said his driving licence was registered in the name of Demain but apparently no check was made.

When Martin was challenged outside his flat he drew two handguns and was shot in the neck by police. Despite his wound he continued fighting - hoping to be "finished off", he told the court.

Martin's apparent death wish was a constant theme in the trial. He told the jury he had considered jumping in front of a Tube train during the chase before his second arrest and had hidden a knife in his mouth with the intention of cutting his throat.

The prosecution tried to depict him as a highly intelligent and dangerous criminal, but that view was disputed by a friend who said that Martin was never a killer, just someone who liked to convince people he was ruthless.

"He simply doesn't care", he added. "David is resigned to going back to prison." The difference this time, though, is that Martin is reputed to have told his guards that he will not remain locked up for long.

Rich pickings: The first bins of grapes at Waldron Vineyards, Heathfield, East Sussex, showing the rare but sought after noble rot, promise a bumper harvest of fine quality. Mrs Gay Biddlecombe right, a co-founder of the business, says. She is being helped by Miss Debbie Pennington, left. (Photograph: Harry Kerr)



Rich pickings: The first bins of grapes at Waldron Vineyards, Heathfield, East Sussex, showing the rare but sought after noble rot, promise a bumper harvest of fine quality. Mrs Gay Biddlecombe right, a co-founder of the business, says. She is being helped by Miss Debbie Pennington, left. (Photograph: Harry Kerr)

Overcharging lawyer not guilty of fraud

Mr Glanville Davies, a solicitor who overcharged a client by £131,000 was not guilty of deliberate fraud, a High Court judge said yesterday.

The Welsh solicitor, a former member of the Council of the Law Society, had sent his client, Leslie Parsons, a bill for £198,000. That was later reduced to £67,000 by the High Court costing official.

Now Mr Parsons is asking Mr Justice Vinelott to order that Mr Davies be struck off. Mr Davies's counsel, Mr Michael Turner, QC, said yesterday that although Mr Davies was not resisting the striking-off move - which he did not consent but accepted as

inevitable - his admission related only to negligence over the costs bill.

The judge said that although Mr Davies had admitted that his conduct in submitting the bill amounted to gross and persistent professional misconduct, there was no suggestion that he was guilty of deliberate fraud.

Mr Parsons, aged 69, of Green Trees, Lon Hir, Carmarthen, is also seeking to recover from Mr Davies, a solicitor for 38 years, of Queen Victoria Road, Llanelli, Dyfed, the "substantial" costs of his case against him.

The hearing continues today.

TV satellite set for weekend debut

By Bill Johnston, Electronics Correspondent

The first satellite available to beam commercial television pictures into Britain and most of western Europe is expected to become fully operational on Saturday.

The European Communication Satellite (ECS1), was launched successfully in June from Kourou, in French Guyana by the Ariane rocket of the European Space Agency. Two of its channels have been allocated to Britain: Satellite Television, which is 65 per cent owned by News International, has one; a customer for the other is being selected.

Three days later - on October 18 - the Ariane rocket, again launched from French Guyana, will carry its first Intelsat satellite. The other recent launches of the satellites in this global communications network have been provided by the American Delta Centaur rocket.

The Intelsat V is to be the latest in a network of satellites, now numbering 17, in apparently static "geostationary" orbits 22,300 miles above the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian oceans, carrying over 60 per cent of international telecommunications traffic.

The European satellite (ECS1) will not carry television pictures until the end of the year.

Plan to cut Crown Court delays

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

A "profound change" in the way criminals are handled is to be tried out in six Crown Court centres.

New procedures, being introduced for a six-month experiment starting on November 1, are intended to cut delays by exchanging more information between prosecution and defence.

The Lord Chief Justice, Lord Lane, launching the pilot project, says: "The scheme should stimulate people to prepare cases as soon after commitment as possible, so that the plea may be discovered and the real issues which will concern the jury may be identified."

Lord Justice Watkins, whose working party on the criminal trial produced the proposals, says that in the first eight months of this year, compared with a similar period in 1982, the number of cases committed to the Crown Court increased from 42,890 to 47,168, enough extra work to keep a court occupied for 27 years.

The working party's report says the parties already give the court some information for listing purposes. "We have adapted and expanded the present Crown Court listing information form so as to include a wider range of information."

One form to be filled in by the defendant's solicitor is intended to inform everyone as early as possible whether a case will be fought.

Defence counsel will fill in a second form requiring a commitment to a plea of guilty or not guilty in advance of the trial.

A third form not intended for use in all cases, will be issued on the instruction of the judges at a Crown Court centre and filled in by counsel.

The pilot project will take place at the following Crown Court centres: Central Criminal Court, Acton, Bristol, Carlisle, Chester and Warwick.

Mothers 'want more advice on birth'

By Diane Gackert

More than a third of new mothers are dissatisfied with their labour and delivery according to a birth survey.

Fewer than half of the 7,500 women surveyed felt they could ask doctors all the questions they wanted, and one in ten felt she could ask hardly any questions at all, *Parents* magazine reported yesterday.

The survey welcomed improvements in medical care and consultation. More than 80 per cent of fathers were present at the birth, compared with 72 per cent in 1981, when the magazine conducted its last survey. Most of those who were absent were at home taking care of older children.

But mothers felt a lack of essential advice. "Having a baby in Britain today can be a wonderful or a disappointing experience", the magazine said. "In general, mothers wanted more information, more choice

in what happens to them and to be treated as individuals."

More than 40 per cent said they received no advice about taking medicines, 50 per cent no information on maternity benefits and 60 per cent no advice on alcohol consumption. Younger and first-time mothers were found to be especially in distress, and relied twice as much on books and pamphlets as on the advice of medical staff.

The lack of choice over hospitals, painkillers and delivery methods was a widespread complaint. Fewer than half the women had a choice of hospital, the survey reported.

The survey also revealed variations between regions. For example, ante-natal clinics in Scotland and the South-west had the shortest waiting times and there was more choice of hospitals in London.

Firm halves price of video film

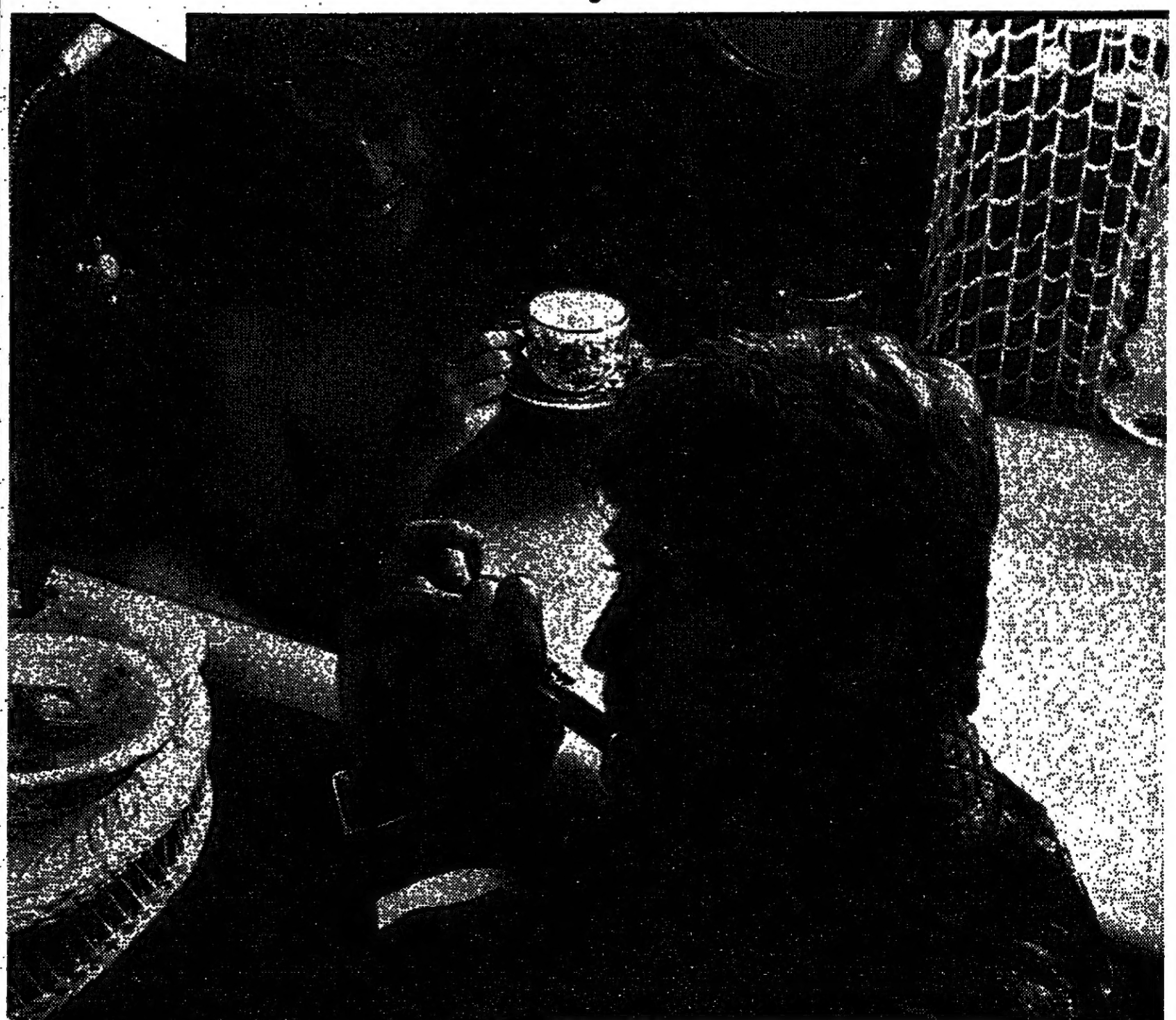
By Christopher Warner, Arts Correspondent

A leading video company is to reduce the price of a recent box office hit film on video cassette by about half in an attempt to encourage people to buy rather than rent video films.

CIC Video, owned by Paramount and Universal Films, is to offer Steven Spielberg's *Raiders of the Lost Ark* at £19.99 or less compared with a price of up to £45, when it goes on sale before Christmas.

At present the video market is almost exclusively rental, and cut-throat competition among high street traders has meant "unrealistically low" rental charges, according to Mr Laurie Hall, managing director of CIC Video. Charges on average are down to £1.50 to £2, and in some cases as low as 50p to 75p for a night's rental.

"And to think I might still be bashing away at Mr Moody's document revisions."



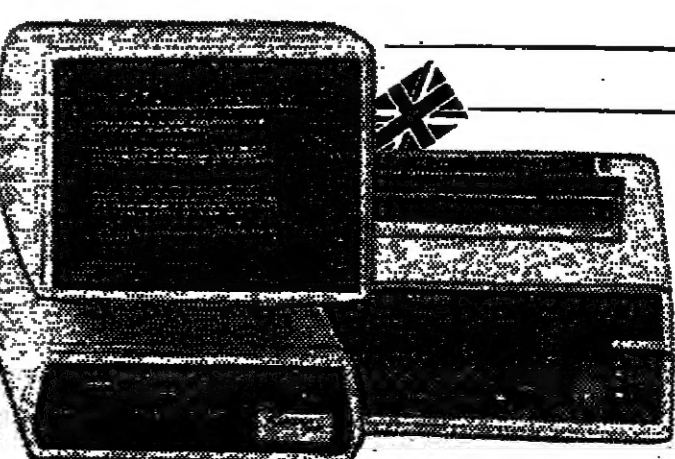
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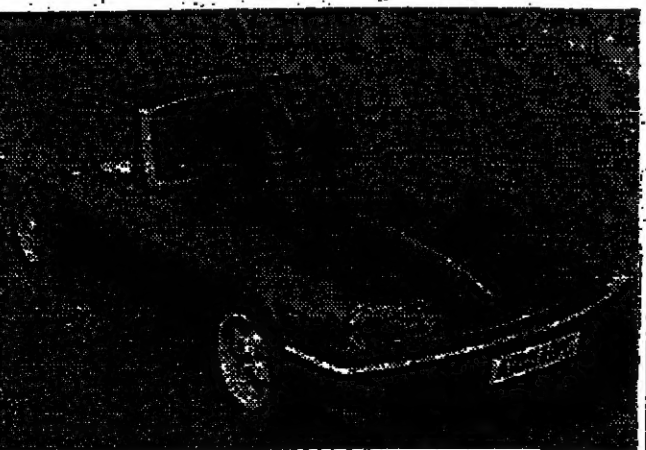
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Jaguar unveils open-top

Jaguar Cars today launches its first open-top sports car since the famous E-type went out of production nine years ago. The XJ-S 3.6 litre Cabriolet is powered by a remarkable new all-alloy engine which is at the heart of Jaguar's new model strategy for the next decade (Clifford Webb, Our Motoring Correspondent, writes).

With twin overhead camshafts operating four valves per cylinder, the six-cylinder AJ6 engine is based on Grand Prix practice. It is only the third new Jaguar engine in more than 30 years, develops 225bhp compared with 265bhp for the present XK 4.2 litre unit and is 30 per cent lighter. In the Cabriolet, it has a maximum speed of 142mph, and a 0-60mph time of 7.6 seconds.

The biggest advance, however, is in fuel economy. The new engine will return a comfortable 25mpg compared with 18 for the existing engine. It was to achieve that, Jaguar then anything else, that Jaguar



The new Jaguar 3.6 litre Cabriolet

spent £30m to install a new, highly automated production line with a weekly capacity of more than 1,000 engines, at its works in Radford, Coventry.

That is double the existing capacity and will not be operating at full stretch until the appearance of the new XJ-40 saloon which, originally planned for launch next year, is being held back because of the continuing demand for present models.

The Cabriolet is based on the existing XJ-S 3.3 litre 12-cylinder sports coupé. The body, without roof and rear panels, is completed at Jaguar's Castle Bromwich plant and shipped to

the Park Sheet Metal Company in Coventry for conversion into a cabriolet with twin roll bars.

A novel solution for the old problem of stealing from open topped cars is the use of large twin lockable storage bins behind the front seats.

The Cabriolet costs £20,756, but a fully enclosed version of the XJ-S with the new smaller engine instead of the existing 12-cylinder unit is available for £206 less. Both are fitted as standard with the German-made Getrag five-speed manual gearbox. Automatic versions are expected later.

CONSERVATIVE PARTY CONFERENCE

Law and order

Tribute to Parkinson

Right to buy

Worst murderers will serve minimum of 20 years, Brittan says

Murderers, terrorists and all violent criminals face longer prison sentences in future, Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary said yesterday in the law and order debate at the Conservative Party conference in Blackpool.

Violent criminals and drug traffickers sentenced to more than five years will not be eligible for parole.

In cases where he judged that the release of a prisoner would endanger the public, the person would not be released. Life would mean life.

Mr Brittan listed other types of murder which would carry a minimum sentence of 20 years: Murders of police and prison officers, terrorist murders, sex or sadistic murders of children and those committed on armed robbery.

The announcements were greeted with loud applause.

These measures demonstrated that those who preyed on their fellow citizens did so at their peril, Mr Brittan said.

Mr Richard Ball, for the Greater London area council, opening the debate, said that during the election campaign ten times as many people asked about law and order as about the economy, unemployment or any other issue.

Mr Ball moved a motion which recognized the progress made in increasing the numbers and effectiveness of the police but called on

'Safety of public is paramount'

the Government to take further measures to strengthen the force of the law "in order to reverse, and finally eradicate, the growing wave of lawlessness in Britain."

He said that the debate had aroused intense interest in the media, possibly because they were looking forward to the traditional Tory sport of bashing the Home Secretary. But the media must also recognize that law and order was one of the great concerns of the public.

It was surprising that the other parties had not debated it at their conferences. The Liberals and SDP seemed too tied up with internal wrangling and the Labour Party debated the police, he said.

The majority of crimes, especially muggings, burglaries and vandalism, were committed by young people - but it was not because their character had changed, as the young soldiers in the Falklands had shown.

He did not agree with those who thought unemployment was to blame because unemployment might go up or down, but crime always rose.

They must, therefore, look elsewhere for an explanation for the increase in crime. One place to look was in schools. Once they had imposed discipline and taught respect for society's values and for the law. "Does anyone still believe they do today?" he asked.

The Home Secretary and other ministers should make sure schools did impose the right discipline and respect for the law.

"Let us make our view plain: Stiffer sentences do work, they do deter" (applause).

Mr Nicholas Bennett, Gillingham, said that the conference should show that it was in favour of strong punishments for violent crime. "In too many cases the prisoner is out of prison before the victim is out of hospital and that cannot be right" (Applause).

There were cheers when Mr Bennett said that he did not agree with the decision taken by the House of Commons not to reintroduce capital punishment, and when he asked how Conservative MPs could argue the case for multilateral disarmament on the basis of deterrent and then argue

'A life sentence may mean life'

that the same principle of deterrent did not work on the individual.

If IRA gunmen knew they were going to be caught, the death penalty would deter the vast majority of them (cheers).

Mr Jim Jardine, former chairman of the Police Federation said the Home Secretary should allow the police to do the job they were appointed to do and not tie their hands by regulations.

The people had the strong police service they expected. All that was

Reports from Alan Wood, Robert Morgan, Gordon Wellman, Howard Underwood, and Barbara Day

needed was the support of Parliament. Lacking on capital punishment, in the case of the new Police Bill.

Mr Brittan commended the motion to the conference, saying that it contained recognition of the progress that had been made with a vigorous spur towards further action. That was a challenge he readily accepted.

In the first term of office the fight against the evil of inflation was the Government's most fundamental task. In the second term the fight against crime was the key task for all.

"There is today a great wave of anger against the wanton violence which disfigures our society. That anger is not confined to this conference and party. It is real, it is genuine, I share it to the full."

The Conservative Party was seen by millions of people as the only party willing to stand up to the men of violence, the terrorists, the thugs, the child molesters, he said.

The public had shown its confidence in the party. He was determined that confidence would not be betrayed (applause).

That would require action, not just words - and action there would be.

The Government would encourage developments like the "neighbourhood watch" schemes in London.

Sentencing was of vital importance. The police and courts could be effective only if the law was upheld if public confidence in the

system was strong. Sentences which failed to reflect society's deep abhorrence of violent crime undermined that confidence and weakened the criminal justice system.

Mr Brittan said that the public did not desire revenge but justice to be done and to be seen to be done.

Tough sentences for the worst crimes were essential, but they were not sufficient.

"You have to catch the criminal before you can punish him". There were now more than 10,000 more policemen in England and Wales and many more of them were back on the beat. In London 650 policemen were being moved from desks to the streets, to combat crime and above all to prevent it.

But to do that effectively the police must have the powers they need to enforce the law. That was why he would shortly reintroduce the Police and Criminal Evidence Bill.

There would be some important changes, but its aim remained better enforcement of the law, combined with surer guarantees of the citizen's rights.

The Home Secretary announced that he was introducing the following measures: Life sentence no life prisoner to be released except by the Home Secretary.

"In any case where I judge that there is a risk to the public, release is simply not an option. In such cases a life sentence may indeed mean life."

"The paramount consideration that I should always have in mind will be the safety of the public and not I am afraid, in these cases the interests of the individual criminal." (applause).

'Our mission is to defend law'

furtherance of crime from fourteen years to life imprisonment."

At present the Court of Appeal could not rule that a sentence was too lenient. He would, therefore, introduce legislation, as part of the Bill on the independent prosecution service, to allow the Attorney General to refer over-lenient sentences.

Although the original sentence would not be altered, it would make clear what the correct punishment should be for similar cases.

There was growing public criticism about the growing gap between the length of sentence passed and that served. People wanted to know with some certainty what a sentence would mean in practice, he said.

"Our opponents and critics will be united in attacking our attempt to resuscitate law and order and decency. But we too must be united."

"Our party alone challenges the discipline in our schools which has led to disorder to our streets. We have the need to defend life and property. Whatever the threat and whatever the consequences."

"Our mission is to defend the rule of law and the values of freedom wherever they are in peril."

The motion was carried by a large majority.

Leading article, page 15

Mr Brittan said that the much-quoted figure for the average period served before release was a misleading one for it took no account of all those who remained in prison.

"Nevertheless, I am taking specific further steps now to make it clear that those who commit some of the very worst types of murder will serve a very long time indeed."

He accordingly today specifying the minimum period which would normally be served by prisoners in certain categories. I emphasize that this is a minimum period only. There will be cases where the gravity of the offence requires a still longer period."

'We must stand up to violence'

Recalling that during the Commons capital punishment debate he announced that those who murdered police officers could normally expect to serve at least 20 years, the Home Secretary said: "Those who murder police officers are also killing people who are in the front line of the battle against crime. They too, can expect to serve at least 20 years." (Applause)

Mr Brittan continued: "Terrorist murderers for their part seek to destroy the very fabric of our society. They aim to secure by violence what they cannot obtain by the ballot box."

"They are the bitter and sworn enemies of a free society. It is for that reason that they, too, must serve at least 20 years in prison (applause). Many of them will serve very long periods."

"There are two further categories of murder where I think it right to specify clearly a minimum period which those who perpetrate the offences can expect to serve."

"Those who commit sexual or sadistic murders of children, are guilty of acts of a peculiarly repellant character. It is right that they, too, should expect to serve at least 20 years in prison (applause)."

"There is also widespread and justifiable concern about criminals who carry firearms when committing robberies and shoot someone in order to get away from the scene of the crime. It is essential that those who behave in that way should know that they will be in prison for a far longer period than if they had committed the robbery but had left their guns at home."

"I intend that such murderers should also serve at least 20 years (applause)."

"Murders other than the ones I have specified cover too wide a range of circumstances to be readily categorized. But some will be every bit as serious as those I singled out," Mr Brittan said.

Mr Brittan said that he was particularly concerned about the rapid growth of crimes involving firearms. The number of armed robberies had increased four fold between 1971 and 1981.

"I shall be bringing forward legislation to increase the maximum sentence for carrying firearms in

'Our mission is to defend law'

furtherance of crime from fourteen years to life imprisonment."

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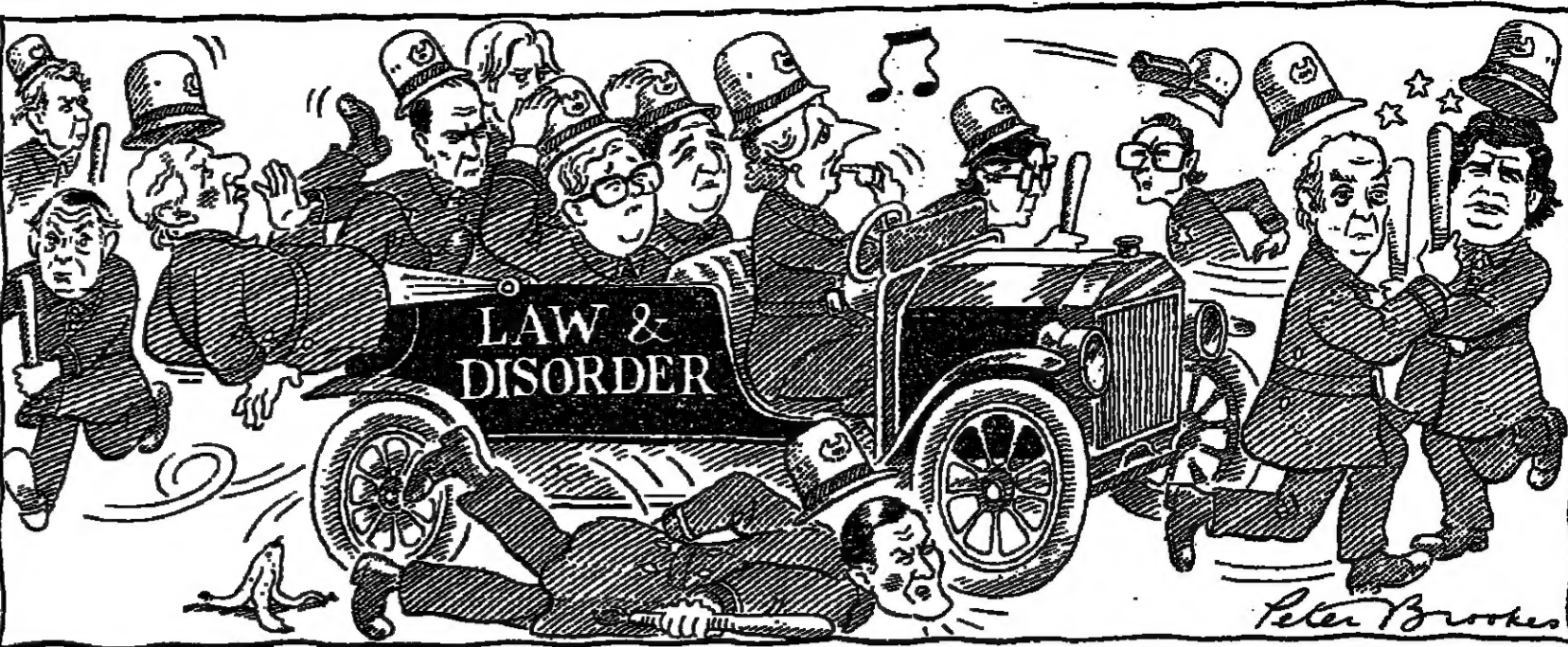
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Leading article, page 15



Keynote Kops

Rate system 'must be changed'

No alternative had emerged as a better system than rates, which remained the least unsatisfactory local tax, Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, said in defending the selective scheme of rate limitation, backed up by reserve powers for general rate capping, which he had announced in August.

The search for a workable alternative to rates had drawn a blank, the Secretary of State said. The Government was determined to find a way to make rates fair and equitable to those who paid rates, was moved by Mr John Stanbury, Chertsey and Walton.

He said radical realignment of the system was required, rather than abolition. The 1979 manifesto promised that the Conservatives would ease the rates burden. In most areas rates went on rising. The White Paper on rate capping was a start, but it was not enough.

Mr Steve Smith, Spelthorne Young Conservatives, said the party should not mess about fiddling with the current system. It was beyond hope and should be replaced.

Mr Stuart Dawson, Sheffield Hallam, said defiance of government directives was looked upon as a victory symbol by Socialist-dominated local councils.

Mr Michael Davis, Chester, senior manager in a large company, said the Government's proposal to cap the rates was being attacked by the local government lobby on the ground that it reduced local democratic accountability, but on the accountability test the rating system failed dismally. He was not asking for a business vote but for protection for business ratepayers.

Miss Mary Lee, Walsford, did not think the system, which was tried and tested, needed reforming. But abuses must be stopped and the Government's answer, rate capping, would help.

Mr Lewis Moss, Association of County Councils, said they urged the Government not to proceed with its rate capping legislation, but to work to make it more fair and equitable.

Mr Jenkin, replying to the debate, said the debate had been an admirable redefinition of the problem, by illustrating that agreement on any radical change was as far away as ever.

Only a few hard-line Labour councils were responsible for the really serious overspending. Soaring rates cost jobs.

No alternative to rates examined by the select committee of MPs had emerged as a better system. In each of the problems outweighed the advantages.

Abolition of the worst overspenders was not by itself enough. The manifesto committed them to take powers to cap the rates, and he had announced a selective scheme of rate limitation backed up by reserve powers for general rate capping.

Those who thought it unnecessary should ask the ratepayers in Shetland, Manchester, Lambeth or Islington. The ratepayers were being oppressed and Parliament had a duty to protect people from the oppressor.

Companies paid almost half the rates but did not have votes. The Government would make it a legal duty for councils to consult businesses before striking a rate.

Housing policy debate

The Government is considering how to overturn a House of Lords decision in the last session of parliament not to extend the right to buy to tenants of charities and charitable associations.

Mr Ian Gow, Minister for Housing and Construction, said when winding up a debate on housing policy.

Apart from defence, Mr Gow said no issue was of more lasting consequence for the people than housing.

The conference carried overwhelmingly a motion welcoming the success of council house sales legislation and noting that home ownership was an aspiration of most families in Britain, to be encouraged by all means available to the government and local councils.

The motion recognized the need for an adequate stock of specialist rented accommodation, especially for the disabled and the elderly, and called on councils to ensure that such houses were available in their areas.

Mr David Snow, Basingstoke, moving the motion, said that in the last parliament the vision of a property-owning democracy became reality for half a million people. The urban landscape had changed dramatically for the better and showed greater individuality than ever.

Mr Brian Salinger, Harrogate and Wood Green, said that the right to buy should be extended to tenants of public authorities like water authorities where the housing was not needed for their

own use. The number of empty publicly-owned houses was a national scandal.

Mr Tony Hall, vice-chairman of the Young Conservatives, said that they should not relegate council housing to those who could not afford to buy and divide the nation into two classes.

Mr Gow said that home ownership was the preferred choice of an overwhelming majority of people. The Conservative Party was proud to have extended home ownership.

Since the Conservatives came to power more than 600,000 homes had been sold by councils, new towns and housing associations - and another 140,000 sales were in the pipeline. That achievement owed a great deal to the leadership and inspiration of the Prime Minister.

Mr Gow said that it used to be thought that a successful housing policy was building more council houses for letting in perpetuity. But housing was not an area where the prejudices of politicians, councillors or housing associations should prevail over the wishes and preferences of the people. "We are engaged in an exercise of genuine public ownership, a transfer of assets from the state to the people themselves"

The new Housing Bill before Parliament would help the less affluent tenant by giving the right to buy on a shared ownership basis, part purchase and part rental.

The Bill also gave tenants the right to organize repairs and be reimbursed by the local authority.

Although some Labour-controlled councils had delayed council house sales, some Conservative-controlled councils had not been effective or enthusiastic about implementing the right to buy. Every council was under a

New party chairman pays warm tribute to his 'outstanding' predecessor

The only difference between Mr Michael Foot, Labour's former leader, and Mr Neil Kinnock, its new leader, was 30 years, Mr John Selwyn Gummer said in his first speech to the conference as chairman of the Conservative Party.

He received the first standing ovation at Blackpool for a speech in which he said the people of Britain did not believe the Old Pretenders of the Labour Party, and the Conservatives must not let the people be misled by the young ones. Long might it be a dream ticket, for the reality might be a nightmare for Britain.

In looking back to the election victory in June, Mr Gummer paid many tributes but the most tumultuous reception came from the representatives when he acknowledged the debt of gratitude the Conservative Party owed to the man who had planned and conducted the campaign, Mr Cecil Parkinson.

Mr Gummer, who is under-secretary of State for employment and MP for Suffolk Coastal, said the party's hundredth conference was under way and they had a lot to do. The Conservative Government was going on with the job it started in 1979

and which the nation had called on it to continue.

He paid tribute to the party's hard working supporters in every constituency, the professionals of the party - the agents - and all at central office, and after the applause which greeted his reference to Mr Parkinson, Mr Gummer commented: "This is a great party to belong to and I am very fortunate in the success Cecil left me. This party is very fortunate to have so outstanding a Secretary of State."

He said the Conservative Party must prepare for the future, having laid a great foundation. At the last election they had been seen to be the party which represented all the people. They must turn those voters into members: they must get out and bring them in.

They had to do this now because next year, as well as the local government elections, there would be the elections to the European Parliament. Conservatives were committed to Britain and to a Britain in the European Community. In the European elections, they must see that it was a Conservative Britain in a Conservative Community.

They would face some competition. The Labour Party had decided to join in, but very unenthusiastically, not entirely definitely but probably, perhaps and on occasion. There was a vagueness which suited Labour at the moment.

"When you are split down the middle", he said, "unity can only be preserved by total ambiguity. Ambiguity - that is the nature of the so-called dream ticket. Long, long may it be a Labour dream. The reality would be a nightmare for Britain. Happily it is like all dreams, it disappears in the light of day."

Mr Gummer went on: "I was ever thus. Foot and Healey: Kinnock and Hattersley. The only difference between Foot and Kinnock is 30 years. I bet Mr Kinnock wishes he had had a stick when he went walking by the water (laughter) people did not believe the Old Pretenders: must not let them be misled by the young ones."

This week there were many who would try to push the party off course, people not on its side and who had other fish to fry. "I give them warning," he said. "This conference will not be diverted: this Government will not be diverted."

'We will lighten tax burden'

A lower burden of taxes, leading to a simpler tax system, depended on the government's creating a climate of stability and confidence. Mr Peter Rees, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, said when replying to the opening debate on taxation.

Public spending must be kept to a minimum to give the Chancellor room to meet the necessary tax objectives. The first task must be to lighten further the tax burden, which he admitted was too high.

Mr Malcolm Harcourt, of Solihull, had opened the debate, saying that a five-year programme of streamlining the tax system should be a high priority, along with tax reductions.

Mr Harcourt moved a resolution urging the Government to "simplify personal and business taxation in order to discourage tax avoidance and encourage all to earn, save and invest, as our country's prosperity depends on the efforts of our working population."

Taxation was one of the major issues facing the Government, he said. The taxation system was far too complex and was understood by very few specialists, let alone the average taxpayer or politician. Tax levels were still too high.

To achieve simpler and lower taxation they must support the Government to control public expenditure. The simplest, cheapest and quickest method of simplification was abolition: there were too many forms of tax. Mr Harcourt would like to see Mr Rees carry forward from the conference the aim of abolishing at least one tax a year from now on. Why not dispose of capital transfer tax over the life of the Government?

The motion was opposed by Mr Andrew Oxley, of the European constituency of Cleveland, who said it merely consisted of truisms and pious hopes.

He said that those who found tax loopholes were not anti-social outcasts, but the Government must lock the loopholes, however difficult. There was no simplicity in this field.

Mr Rees, drew prolonged applause when he began by paying tribute to Mr Cecil Parkinson's

duty to ensure that right could be exercised freely, speedily and efficiently, Mr Gow said.

"Anyone who believes that that right is being denied or delayed should write to me, Ian Gow, 2 Masham Street, London, SW1."

Local authorities had a particular responsibility for the elderly and disabled, he said.

Although it was for them to decide their priorities, he believed that they should concentrate more resources on provision for those groups.

New starts of accommodation for the elderly were up by 25 per cent on last year for disabled starts were 50 per cent up.

The labour-intensive construction industry would play a key role in leading Britain out of recession. Housing starts and completions for the first eight months of the year were substantially up on last year.

A review of legislation covering the private rented sector was underway because laws designed to protect the tenant had dried up the supply of accommodation.

Mr Gow said that, The Prime Minister had set the party the goal of making Britain the best-housed nation in Europe. In the present parliament, they would take giant strides towards that goal. The motion was carried overwhelmingly.

Government had invested more than £2m a day in the industry. Mr Scargill accusing it of being in favour of destroying the industry rather than of giving the industry a chance to survive on a peace mission in Afghanistan.

He wanted to see a successful, efficient and competent mining industry capable of giving the miners the rewards they richly deserved.

Mr Edward Ellis, Folkestone and Hythe, moved a motion, later carried, urging the Government to take steps to ensure that British industry was not placed at a disadvantage as to energy costs compared with its foreign competitors.

He said that for a large consumer of electricity must be 20 per cent cheaper, and in Italy 43 per cent. In an industry where electricity prices were 20 per cent of the total cost of production, the British competitor started with a 10 per cent handicap as against his foreign rival.

France had the benefit of cheaper nuclear power and hydro electricity. Britain relied heavily on expensive coal-based production. Italy cheated with heavy subsidies.

But another factor which should not be underestimated was pricing policy. On the Continent huge discounts were given to the larger consumer. There remained the abiding irony Britain with all its massive energy resources, was still very expensive.

The Government should ensure that in future energy prices were not a handicap.

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Killers' escapes upset moves towards open prison policy

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Government moves to put into open prisons more inmates serving long sentences, including life, received a setback yesterday as three murderers escaped from Leyhill Open Prison, near Bristol.

Although they were recaptured within hours, the escapes came as plans for holding long-term prisoners were being reviewed along with a rash of escapes from prisons which are described as serious by the Prison Department.

Prison Service News, published by the department, said yesterday: "Where appropriate, local authority agreements which governed the type of inmate who could be sent to particular open establishments are being renegotiated."

Lord Elton, Under Secretary of State at the Home Office, has told local MPs about moves to lift curbs on three open prisons, Ashwell in Leicestershire, Ford in West Sussex, and Knebworth in Lancashire. For prisoners coming to the end of long sentences, including life, a period in open conditions was an essential prelude to their eventual release, he said. The three who absconded from Leyhill were serving life.

The Prison Department's recent annual report showed that 131 lifers were being held in open prisons. Last year there was a sharp rise in the number of prisoners absconding from open jails.

While escapes from all establishments rose from 461 the previous year to 555 in 1982, those from open prisons increased from 380 to 438.

Mr William Brister, deputy director-general of the Prison Service, is quoted in Prison Service News as saying there has been an alarming increase nationally in the number of escapes by prisoners under escort. In the first four months of the year, 30 prisoners escaped in 25 separate incidents. Although 18 were recaptured within 24 hours, this does not detract from the seriousness of these breaches of security, he says.

The lifers who escaped from Leyhill yesterday were recaptured when a prison officer on his way from work saw three men in prison uniform crossing a field near the A38 near Newport Towers, north of Bristol.

A police hunt was launched and within a short time two of the prisoners were caught. The third gave himself up after a chase from Avon and Somerset Police Force and Gloucestershire Police had been searching for a further hour.

Police named him as Malcolm Green, aged 36, from Cardiff. He surrendered to a police dog handler, Police Constable Michael Whiting as he searched a country lane near the M5 motorway, about four miles from Leyhill.

The others, David Phillips, aged 32, and Anthony Hewitt, aged 29, and Green, are likely to be moved to secure prisons.

Streamlining the cities: 3

Managing London after the GLC

The Greater London Council has two faces. One, that of Mr Kenneth Livingstone and the other, that of the politicians who disappear in April 1985. But what will become of the other, benign face of the GLC: the blue plaques, Waterloo Bridge, Golden Hill, Park, the Festival Hall? In the third of a series on the consequences of abolition David Walker, Local Government Correspondent, looks at the special arrangements for many of the GLC's assets.

This year the Greater London Council is spending £56 more than the Government says it should on each of its 6.7 million inhabitants; its budget is 50 per cent in excess of the target level. Those figures give some idea of the dimensions of the exercise in cutting public spending that has just begun. It may be called reorganisation but in effect it is a process (the Government hopes) for taking nearly £300m out of the GLC's hands.

Similarly, huge savings are expected from the Inner London Education Authority, which is to be reconstituted in 1986 as a joint committee of councillors. It will inevitably be Labour-controlled, but the Government will be in charge of its budget and will be looking for savings of £143 per head from the inner area's 2.3 million people, which translates into a budget cut of £100m at present prices.

The gamble inherent in the Government's policy is that closing County Hall and forcing Mr Livingstone to find another living will save upwards of £400m a year. What the White Paper published last week leaves unclear is how much the boroughs will have to spend to continue providing the many GLC services the public is likely to want retained.

Victoria Park in east London will pass in organization to many of the boroughs or to Tower Hamlets or some joint committee. The boroughs will pay for its high maintenance, flower beds and keepers. Both Labour-controlled, are candidates for the other arm of the Government's policy: pinprick rate-capping. With rates capped they are likely to have higher priorities for their spending than water fowl.

Perhaps the most dramatic financial changes are faced by ILEA. At a press conference last week Mrs Frances Morrell, its pugnacious leader, said it had been under attack for five years but an alliance of parents and teachers had fended off opponents. Such confidence is unlikely to hold.

Mrs Morrell says that ILEA's very favourable pupil-teacher ratio, its high costs for non-teaching staff, its subsidies for school meals, are all justified by the social needs of the inhabitants of Hackney, Southwark and other poorer areas.

Critics of the authority acknowledge the poverty and disadvantages of inner London but question whether this justifies, for example, spending £300 per secondary pupil per year more than Newton, which is also poor, or spending £100 per head of population more per year than Manchester.

The civil servants who will take over ILEA's budget from 1985 will have the task of chipping away the residue of many years of County Hall's generosity. Mrs Morrell and her educational allies are unlikely to be dispossessed without at least a noisy struggle.

Mrs Morrell: Pugnacious leader. Tomorrow: The Birmingham solution.

BBC buys four studios at Elstree for £7m

By Kenneth Gesling

The BBC has bought four television studios at Elstree for between £7m and £7.5m. The deal, described as "a good long-term investment", also gives the BBC 65,000sq ft of office space and will enable it to move staff from a number of London locations.

At present prices each of the four studios would cost about £4m; one of the first projects to take place at Elstree will be a new twice-weekly drama series for BBC1.

The Elstree site is larger than that at the Television Centre at Sheppards Bush in London, and will enable the corporation to move from high-priced short-lease premises in central London. There are eight studios at the Television Centre and the new accommodation will provide much needed rehearsal and training facilities.

The deal is with Bentay Investments Ltd, the property company belonging to Associated Communications Corporation.

Calvi inquiries to continue, City police say

By John Withers

Inquiries into the death of Signor Roberto Calvi, the Italian banker, will continue, a senior police officer has said after returning from Italy where he questioned a close business associate of the man known as "God's banker".

Chief Supt Barry Tarbun, of the City police, said that he and two colleagues had spent a total of 24 hours questioning Signor Flavio Carboni about the death of Signor Calvi, who was found hanging from scaffolding under Blackfriars Bridge last year.

Signor Carboni, aged 51, a flamboyant Sardinian business associate of Signor Calvi who was with him in London when he died, was "very frank and never declined to answer anything", Mr Tarbun said.

Mr Tarbun said they had no new lead but the interviews had cleared up certain doubts. He added that a conclusion that Signor Calvi committed suicide was still "very much a possibility".



UK mends fences in Malaysia

Singapore (Reuters) - Lord Jellicoe, chairman of the British Overseas Trade Board, said here before flying home, last night that Malaysia had dropped its "Buy British Last" policy, but there was still room for improvement in relations between the two countries.

He was speaking to the British Business Association, before leaving for home after leading a trade delegation to Malaysia.

"I can say the 'Buy British Last' policy appears to have become a thing of history. But I can't say Malaysian-British relations are entirely out of the woods."

The 10-member Jellicoe mission was the first big British trade delegation to visit Malaysia for more than a year, after Malaysia imposed a restrictive trade policy against British goods.

Malaysia eased its restrictions after the Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, met Mrs Margaret Thatcher in London in March.

● KUALA LUMPUR: British investors and traders have been redoubling efforts to regain lost goodwill (M. G. G. Pillai writes). But they are finding it hard, going, as Lord Jellicoe's delegation discovered during its week-long visit to Malaysia.

In a series of meetings with interested Malaysians, Lord Jellicoe spoke like a born-again convert, asking his listeners to give Britain a second chance to help Malaysia. Curiously, the official radio and television network gave him more coverage than a visit of this nature would normally have received while the newspapers barely reported it.

However, talks with the Prime Minister and other ministers went off happily. Lord Jellicoe knows well both Dr Mahathir and Datuk Musa Hitam, the deputy Prime Minister.

Liberals in turmoil as White turns on Gray

From Our Correspondent Melbourne

The decision by Mr Robin Gray, the Liberal Premier of Tasmania, to campaign for Mr John Bjelke-Petersen, the National Party Premier of Queensland, has caused a storm in the Liberal Party.

Mr David Rowell, president of the Liberals Tasmanian branch, said he had been placed in an embarrassing position after advising Mr Gray not to visit Queensland. He said that the political dangers of such a visit would have to be faced by Mr Gray, alone.

Mr Rowell said that Tasmanian Liberals would be disappointed by Mr Gray's decision. "I have given my commitment to the Queensland Liberal Party, through their president, Dr Herron, and Mr White, that we will offer them any help."

Mr Gray's decision is particularly unfortunate because the state election, to be held on October 22, was precipitated by a split in the National-Liberal Party coalition government caused by Mr Bjelke-Petersen's refusal to allow Mr Terry White, the new Liberal Party leader, to serve in the Queensland Government.

Yesterday Mr White said that Mr Gray was the "bad apple at the bottom of the political barrel." He said Mr Gray was not welcome in Queensland and that he would refuse to meet him.

Aborigines threaten police with death song

From Tony Duboudin Melbourne

Aborigines in the West Australian town of Roebourne say they will use traditional methods to punish a local policeman who, they say, was responsible for the death of an Aboriginal youth in police custody more than a week ago. They say they will "sing" him to death.

The ceremony, equivalent to an execution is carried out only rarely. Anthropologists have documented many Aboriginal deaths after such ceremonies.

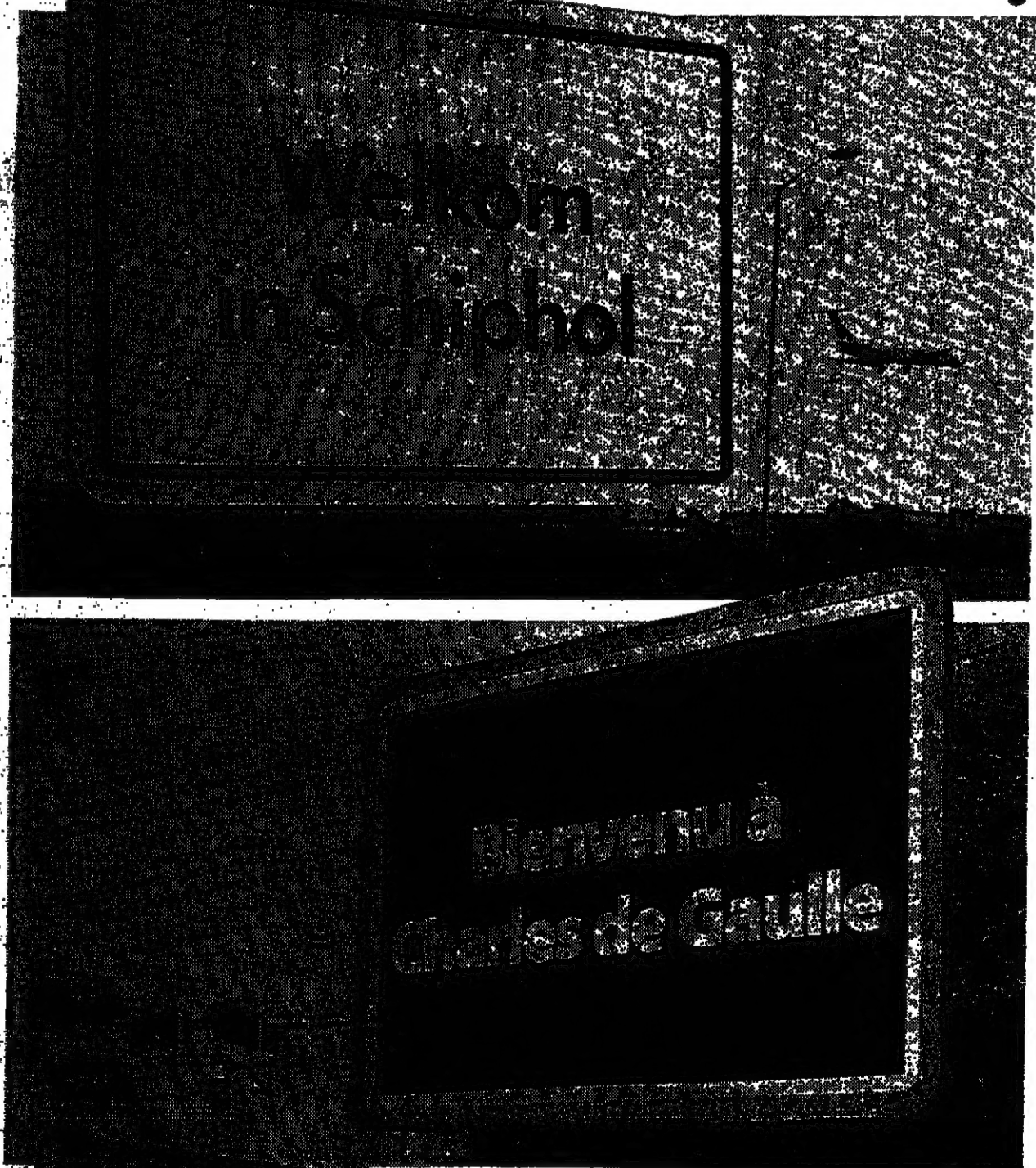
Mr Mick Lee, the stepfather of the boy, said that the local Aborigines would probably go ahead with the singing ceremony if no one was punished by white man's law.

"That is what the people are talking about, they are very angry," he said. "When someone is killed, someone must die. This is our law, Aboriginal law. When someone is sung to death by Aboriginal lawmen, he dies in two days. Black or white, all the same."

Mr Lee is one of the senior Aboriginal lawmen in Roebourne, 900 miles north-east of Perth. He is responsible for initiating young men into Aboriginal spiritual life.

The dead youth, John Pat, aged 17, had begun the long process of education in Aboriginal law last year, Mr Lee said. "I took him into the law myself."

The alternatives to Stansted could prove very costly.



The why, when and whereabouts of London's third airport have been circling around for more than 20 years.

And time, that most critical of airport planning factors, is running out.

If future air-traffic diverts to our competitors, we'll be waving goodbye to a good deal of foreign currency.

Ticket sales to foreign visitors and landing fees from overseas airlines earned us £157 million last year. Countless millions more came in via incoming tourists.

In addition to the cash, there's the wealth of jobs that air travel generates. Not just in our airports but in shops, hotels, restaurants and the like.

With over 40 million passengers last year, a figure that's expected to double over the next decade, there's now an urgent need for airport development.

At the recent public inquiry, the forecasts supported an expansion of capacity in the South East. Even assuming the maximum growth for regional airports.

The air traveller will expect expansion at London too. Apart from the obvious attractions of our capital city, it offers more flights to more international destinations than anywhere else.

And if we can't cope with future demand, airline passengers will opt for our competitors across the Channel.

To hold our position on top of the world, we must develop our airport system around London.

And the logical location for this development is Stansted. An airport already operating successfully. An airport with rail services nearby and with London just a short trip down the M11.

But, while waiting for the green light at Stansted, we've still been moving forward.

At Heathrow we are spending £200 million on the construction of Terminal 4. It is due to open, on schedule, in 1985.

At Gatwick we've just completed a £24 million satellite terminal. And work has begun on a second main terminal costing a further £200 million.

When the above projects are complete, all feasible developments will be at an end.

There is talk of building a fifth terminal on the sewage works west of Heathrow.

But this scheme could never be ready in time to meet the expected number of passengers.

It would cost £100 million more than developing Stansted.

And, in any case, it would exceed the government limit on air-traffic movements at Heathrow which comes into force in 1985.

At the British Airports Authority we think the question has been up in the air long enough.

To ensure that foreign currency continues to land in London, we must come down in favour of Stansted.

British Airports

The British Airports Authority, a profitable public enterprise, owns and manages Heathrow, Gatwick, Stansted, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Prestwick and Aberdeen airports.

Shamir's crisis package may not be enough to stabilize the shekel

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

Government sources disclosed yesterday that the 23 per cent devaluation in the Israeli shekel was 7 per cent smaller than that recommended to the Cabinet by the Treasury, thus leaving open the possibility that future attempts to stabilize the ailing currency will be necessary.

The all-night emergency Cabinet session - the first to be chaired by Mr Yitzhak Shamir as Prime Minister - also saw the first angry exchanges between coalition colleagues, which were interpreted as a forerunner of the internal difficulties which will threaten the shaky coalition in the coming months.

At one stage, Mr Yitzhak Modali, a leading member of the Liberal Party (the second largest coalition grouping) accused Mr Yoram Aridor, the unpopular Finance Minister, of bringing Israel's economy to "the brink of ruin" and hitting "the small man" in his efforts to launch a rescue.

The dire state of the economy, including spiralling foreign debt and a balance of payments crisis has caused mounting pressure on Mr Aridor to resign. But it is understood that this will be resisted until he is offered what

associates call "an honourable exit" to another portfolio by Mr Shamir, possibly the Foreign Ministry. The new Prime Minister is reluctant to open the Pandora's box that would be the result of any switch of posts at present.

The Government's new austerity measures prompted an immediate attack from the main opposition Labour Party, which will decide later this week whether to mount the first test of the Shamir Government's strength by introducing a no-confidence motion on its handling of the economy.

Mr Gad Ya'acobi, Labour's chief economic spokesman, said that the new package was "an admission of failure" by Mr Aridor for his policy over the past two years. Labour has itself been in favour of a sharp devaluation, but it also supports a rapid withdrawal from Lebanon and a freeze on settlements on the occupied West Bank.

The new measures will usher in three successive rounds of price increases, the first which began at midnight with a 50 per cent cut in the heavy subsidies on such basic commodities as bread, dairy products, cooking oil and flour.

The next stage will involve a rise in electricity, water and public transport prices resulting directly from the 23 per cent increase in the price of fuel also introduced yesterday. Then will come a jump in the price of all imported items by at least the 23 per cent devaluation figure.

According to experts, the net effect will be a jump in the rate of inflation from 130 per cent to at least 160 per cent by the end of the year before the reversal which Treasury officials hope their measures will begin.

Most Israeli economic experts were agreed that Mr Shamir's package - introduced with impressive swiftness and determination - could only succeed if accompanied by sweeping cuts in government spending and a successful campaign to water down the system of automatic wage rises in line with inflation.

A scheme designed to minimize the financial disaster for tens of thousands of Israelis following last week's collapse in the market for bank shares has yet to be agreed by all the banks or by the Knesset Finance Committee. As a result, the Tel Aviv Stock exchange will remain shut today.



Tibetan fury: Indian police clashing with Tibetan exiles outside the Chinese Embassy in Delhi yesterday during a demonstration against the execution of Tibetan dissidents by the Chinese authorities in Lhasa. The demonstrators shouted anti-Chinese slogans and hurled stones at the embassy compound.

EEC's crucial meeting in Athens

From Ian Murray, Athens

Howe crusade begins to take effect

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, ended two days of patient lecturing of his EEC colleagues in Athens yesterday, confident that they were beginning to repent of what Britain believes to be their profligate spending ways.

He thought that his four-and-a-half year crusade in the Community to cut agricultural spending and to find a fairer way of assessing Britain's EEC budget contribution, could be edging towards an end.

This second of the three-day special council has concentrated on money. First there was discussion of Britain's ideas for strict financial guidelines on farm spending, which was made more urgent by the news that the Commission was having to freeze payment of £240m this

year for want of ready money. There was discussion, too, of the British idea for a "safety net", which would be set up to catch Britain if it was required to pay more than its fair share of the Community budget.

On both these things, Sir Geoffrey said afterwards, there was "a more constructive approach" than there had been at the beginning of the meeting.

"We haven't reached the point where the whole Community is clambering over its safety net to salvation," he said. But he believed the fact that ministers were now prepared to discuss the problems meant there had been significant progress.

He remained as firm as ever on Britain's refusal to accept a "marriage" of ideas, suggested

so far by the Commission and by Denmark, for solving the British budget problem. These were both inadequate, he said, and he did not see how putting two inadequate together could ever make an adequate solution.

The meeting decided to put the many different ideas on the table back to specialist groups for study before the next special council in November.

The British delegation felt that the cash crisis facing the Community would help to concentrate everyone's mind on the scale of the problem.

The tough British stand was causing irritation in other delegations. One diplomat said that Sir Geoffrey was suffering from illusions of his own if he thought anyone would take

Britain's full demands seriously. STRASBOURG: A move to hold part of Britain's 1983 budget rebate hostage against a long-term reform of the EEC's finances was launched in the European Parliament yesterday (Patrick Clough writes).

The Parliament's budget committee proposed to move £171.6m from the second 1982 supplementary budget into a reserve fund which it would only be released if the EEC summit produced a "clear concept" on future EEC financing in Athens on December 5 and 6.

The committee also proposed to allot an extra £330m for agricultural spending, which has been rising so fast that the Community faces the unpalatable prospect of running out of cash.

The people applaud. "Reagan's most abominable act of the week was the assassination of four persons (by the rightist) Maximiliano Hernandez Martinez Brigade. We are arriving at the limits of barbarism."

"If this orgy of blood is not stopped, the slightest suspicion will be enough to condemn to death any Salvadoran without delay without knowing his executioner."

More applause. "The ultra-right death squads are back again, shadowy groups from private enterprise, sections of the armed forces and rightist political elements."

The Church condemns them unhesitatingly. Mgr Ricardo Urdiles, Vicar-General of the Arch-Diocese of San Salvador, said that most assassinations are carried out by paramilitary groups and others to the right. He had heard that 80 per cent of people murdered in the past three years were victims of the right.

"President Reagan says the human rights situation is improving," he said. "He is wrong, certainly. But I understand he has a political vision of the situation. It is not a humanist vision, not an ethical vision."

"It would be easy for the Church in Salvador to choose an easy life, to say that only the (leftist) guerrillas are the bad guys. People would then be happy with us."

"I wonder if God would be happy."

Poles angry at Norway over Nobel

Warsaw - The Polish Government has protested verbally to Norway about the decision to grant Mr Lech Walesa the Nobel Peace Prize, but Oslo has discreetly warned of "serious consequences" if the former Solidarity chief is prevented from collecting the award (Roger Boyes writes).

Mr Jerzy Urban, the government spokesman, said yesterday that it was up to the militia headquarters in Gdansk whether Mr Walesa would be allowed to leave the country.

Odessa polluted after mishap

Moscow (Reuters) - An accident at a US-built chemical plant near the Black Sea port of Odessa caused serious pollution last month, official sources in Moscow said.

Water supplies to most of the city had to be cut off for several days after ammonia and other chemicals were discharged into the Dniester river and severely contaminated reservoirs. But fresh water was shipped in by tanker, they added.

Bette Davis ill

Bette Davis, the film actress, suffered a mastectomy and a stroke in June but is recovering. Mr Aaron Spelling, the producer, announced in Beverly Hills, California, Miss Davis, who is 75, had kept the illness secret until now.

Hiss loses

Washington (AP) - Alger Hiss, whose prosecution 33 years ago became a cold war symbol of US preoccupation with communist infiltration, filed in a Supreme Court attempt to clear his name. The justices refused, without comment, to review his 1950 perjury conviction for telling a grand jury he was not a spy for the Soviet Union.

Runaways safe

Badajoz, Spain (APP) - A West German girl, aged 12, who ran away with her brother, aged 4, four months ago has been found with him at Merida in south-western Spain. The girl, who is big for her age, used her mother's passport and posed as the boy's mother.

Jumblatt jeopardizes Beirut unity talks

Beirut (Reuters) - Efforts to convene a Lebanese national reconciliation conference were in disarray yesterday after the Beirut newspapers published a statement by the party of Mr Walid Jumblatt, the Druze leader, which rejected a government proposal to meet at the presidential palace outside Beirut.

The Progressive Socialist Party also called for a delay in the arrival of Greek and Italian observers who are expected here to monitor a shaky ceasefire.

Mr Rafik Hariri, a Lebanese businessman with Saudi Arabian ties, returned to Beirut yesterday to resume his efforts to reconcile the warring factions which have been tagging over a conference site for the past two weeks. Opposition sources said that a preliminary meeting due to convene today to prepare for the conference was in doubt because of the uncertainty over the site.

The sources said that the preliminary meeting could still convene within the next two days if a suitable site was found.

Mr Jumblatt sees the conference as a forum to press his demands for a greater say for Lebanon's 250,000 Druze in running the country.

Beirut radio reported new outbreaks of shelling between Christian and Druze-held villages in the troubled Kharrub region, 25 miles south of Beirut. Efforts to send paramilitary police to disengage the two sides have foundered on Druze demands that the Christian "Lebanese forces" militia should first evacuate its remaining barracks from the coastal strip.

The ceasefire has been subject to mounting, but so far limited, violations. ● STOCKHOLM: Mr Jumblatt held talks in Stockholm yesterday with Mr Olof Palme, the Swedish prime minister, in which he requested humanitarian aid and asked for Swedish help for his cause at the Socialist International. (Christopher Mosley writes).

● DAMASCUS: Arafat loyal to Mr Yasser Arafat, the leader of the Palestine Liberation Organization, remained in control of several offices of his Fatah group in Damascus yesterday after losing two buildings to rebels in a gunbattle on Monday night. (Reuters reports).

Who's Who in Lebanon conflict

Government: Led by President Amin Gemayel. Maronite Christians. Other groups represented, but accused of Christian domination. Army: Tenuous control in Beirut and fragments of Chouf Mountain. Muslim majority in rest of Lebanon. Christian majority in officer corps. Sides increasingly with Christian Phalange.

Multinational Force: 5,400 troops from US, France, Italy and Britain, backed by offshore fleet. Bolsters the Government's authority. Maronites: Most powerful community, Western-leaning, with 25 per cent of population. Provides both the President and the Commander of the army. Fighting force is Phalange of Kata'ib, including some Orthodox Christians 8 per cent of population.

Shiite Muslim sect with 30 per cent of population. Its "Amal" (hope) militia allied with Druze. Leading figure Nabih Berri, Beirut Amal chief. Druze: Sect of roughly 7 per cent population, split from main Islamic streams in 11th century. Led by Syria, Libya and PLO. Led by Walid Jumblatt and Progressive Socialist Party militia. Mountain strongholds. Palestine Liberation Organization Forces in Lebanon split between loyalists of chairman Yasser Arafat, confined to northern Tripoli area, and Syrian-aided dissidents under Colonel Abu Moussa and Mr Abu Saleh. ISRAEL: Occupies south Lebanon on vague Arafat River line and into central Bekaa Valley.

Syria: Occupies north and east Lebanon. Armed by Russia. Seeks to destabilize Gemayel Government.

Zia 'playing for time' in talks with politicians

Islamabad (Reuters) - A leading Pakistani politician reported no progress yesterday in the first talks between President Zia ul-Haq and civilian leaders since political parties were banned four years ago.

Maulana Shah Ahmad Noorani, who met General Zia for three and a half hours, said he thought the President was buying time by opening a dialogue with political parties during an opposition campaign for immediate elections.

He said the general told him he wanted to meet the heads of several other parties in the coming weeks and then announce his plans.

A government statement on the talks said they were cordial

Reagan prepares ground for Peking visit

From Mohsin Ali, Washington

President Reagan, who is proposing to visit Peking in April, met Mr Wu Xueqian, the Chinese Foreign Minister, yesterday to discuss East-West relations, arms control, the conflict in Cambodia and further improvement of US-Chinese relations.

Mr Wu's five-day visit symbolizes a new warmth in these relations which until this spring were marked by recriminations resulting mainly from Peking's objections to US arms sales to Taiwan, which Peking regards as its renegade province.

Both Peking and Washington have evidently decided not to allow their differences over Taiwan to interfere with their

desire to expand trade, political and strategic ties.

Mr Wu's talks with US ministers are expected to cover their strong opposition to both the continued presence of Vietnamese troops in Cambodia and of some 100,000 Soviet forces in Afghanistan. The diplomatic fall-out from the bomb attack in Rangoon on Sunday that killed four South Korean Cabinet ministers may also be touched on.

Senior officials said that Sino-US relations were now "back on track", especially after the ending of disputes over textile trade and the American decision to grant asylum to Miss Hu Na, a Chinese tennis star.

● LONDON: Pakistan has denied arming, training and financing any of the Sikh extremists involved in the continuing disturbances in the Punjab. (Our Foreign Staff writes). In a statement issued this week through its High Commission in London, the Pakistani Government said it had scrupulously refrained from interfering in India's internal affairs and would not aid any movement seeking to create disorder in India.

handed warriors bearing spears, swords and Sterling sub-machine guns on the roof of a nearby lodging house, merely declared that the mood showed even more clearly the chain of slavery about the neck of the Sikhs.

Yesterday's meeting of the Akali leadership - attended by one of the party's four MPs, 25 of its 36 members of the state Legislative Assembly and all 18 district presidents of the party, as well as Sant Longowal himself - decided that the court of law would continue where law courts were driven into volunteers, occupy the streets and fill the prisons overnight.

Sant Jarnail Singh Bindrwal, surrounded by fiercely bearded and luxuriously tur-

Iraq Etandard deal shrouded in mystery

From Diana Geddes, Paris

Contradictory information about delivery of the five Super Etandard jets to Iraq is flying about so fast that many people are beginning to wonder whether the French Government itself is not deliberately putting out misinformation while playing for time in its efforts to secure a ceasefire in the three-year Iran-Iraq war.

The latest news is that the planes have not left France at all, but are at the Bordeaux-Mérignac airport in the south.

Four weeks ago, reports began circulating, quoting well-informed sources, claiming that the five Super Etandard were at the Landivision Air Force Base in Brittany a few days later, however, other "well-informed" sources, claimed the planes had been dismantled, and were about to be shipped.

Hot on the heels of that information, came reports, still officially unconfirmed, that the delivery had been deferred in deference to international concern about an escalation of the war in the Gulf.

Then, on Sunday, came a flurry of new reports, all claiming the planes had left the Landivision base.

● TEHRAN: Iran has renewed its threat to close the Gulf, cutting off about a sixth of the non-communist world's oil supplies, if Iraq disrupts Iranian oil exports (Reuters reports).

● LONDON: Iraqi students in Britain have renewed their protest over alleged spying on them by diplomats from the London embassy (Henry Stanhope writes).

Santiago march marks start of 3-day protest

From Our Correspondent, Santiago

Three days of anti-government protests began last night in Santiago with a demonstration organized by Proden, an opposition grouping including representatives of the political left, centre and right.

The Government gave permission for the march after turning down an application by the Democratic Alliance, a loose coalition of Social Democrats, Christian Democrats and right-wingers, to hold four separate marches in central Santiago.

Left-wing groups are planning most of the events, with the Communists, Socialists and the Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR) organizing demonstrations in the universities, streets and shantytowns of the capital, where employment is running at more than 30 per cent and popular discontent is high.

The Democratic Alliance, tried to reach an understanding with the Government through talks with the Interior Minister, Señor Sergio Oñofre Jarpa, but their collapse last week, followed by the banning of its marches, left the Alliance out on a limb.

President Augusto Pinochet has seized back the reins of power, after they had seemed to be slipping into the hands of Señor Jarpa. After the celebrations last month marking the tenth anniversary of his coup against President Allende, General Pinochet began to feel more sure of his popular support, and moved to limit the powers granted to his Interior Minister.

Junta confronts debt crisis in Argentina

From Andrew Thompson, Buenos Aires

Argentina's military junta says it has agreed on "the bases to rechannel negotiations" in the rescheduling of the country's estimated \$27 billion foreign debt.

The precise meaning of the statement, issued late on Monday night after a four-hour meeting, was being discussed yesterday in financial circles. Renegotiation talks with 320 creditor banks were paralysed last month as a result of domestic court action, and the payments crisis led to deep divisions within the government.

The "freeze" on agreements to reschedule the debt of 32 state companies has been lifted by an appeal court, but there are two schools of opinion on how to proceed.

One view, supported by Central Bank officials, is that the agreements should be signed quickly, before the general elections, due on October 30. "We cannot wait a further 20 days to renegotiate the foreign

debt," Señor Raul Sanguinetti, a director of the Central Bank, has said.

The country is in a very serious situation. Imports have been virtually suspended, and whoever wins the elections, the day after taking office, will face too many other problems apart from the foreign debt.

On the other hand, the Air Force and some politicians support a moratorium, to allow the new government to deal with it.

The decision, in many senses, lies with the creditor banks. They originally set October 17 as the deadline for Argentina to put its financial house in order. The committee of 12 leading banks coordinating the creditors was due to meet yesterday in New York. Some foreign bankers in Buenos Aires suggested that opinion was moving in favour of a postponement, on the grounds that the Government has neither the authority nor the necessary coherence to implement the agreements.

Libya seeks reparations

From Zoriana Fysarivsky, New York

Libya is pressing for war reparations from the Italian Government for atrocities committed under the dictatorship of Benito Mussolini, for compensation for 35 years of Italian colonial rule, which ended 30 years ago.

It is also encouraging other countries which suffered under colonial rulers to follow suit. It is not clear, however, how many former colonies are interested in joining Libya's campaign.

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Andropov gives up hope of winning deal on missiles in Geneva

From Richard Owen, Moscow

President Andropov has given up hope of an agreement at the Geneva talks on medium-range missiles and is counting on a "hot autumn" of anti-nuclear protests in Europe to prevent Nato deployments, diplomats here believe.

The main target of an eleven-hour Soviet propaganda campaign is West Germany, where a senior Soviet delegation led by Mr Leonid Zamyatin, the head of the Soviet-Communist Party's international information department, has been putting the Soviet case this week, warning Bonn not to accept new Nato missiles on its soil.

The delegation crossed the path of a West German Bundestag team on its way to Moscow for talks.

In its latest broadcast *Pravda* yesterday said the stationing of Pershing 2 and cruise missiles in West Germany in December would breach Soviet-German treaties signed in the 1970s which included undertakings by Bonn not to use force or prepare to launch a war from West German soil.

Until the sidinder crisis a month and a half ago, Mr Andropov often referred nostalgically to the détente of the 1970s, and appeared to be laying the groundwork for a last minute compromise at Geneva. In the aftermath of the tragedy

the Soviet leader kept a low profile for a month before deciding to reinforce the hard-line rhetoric of Russia's military spokesmen rather than try to salvage the moves towards an arms agreement.

He described President Reagan's new proposals at Geneva as "bold, shortsighted and suicidal" and said any illusions that Reagan Administration policies might "evolve for the better" had been finally dispelled.

Mr Andropov is expected to maintain his bitterly anti-American tone in a speech in Sofia after this week's meeting of Warsaw Pact foreign ministers in the Bulgarian capital. The missiles will also dominate talks in Vienna this weekend between Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, and Herr Hans Dietrich Genscher, his West German counterpart.

Herr Egon Bahr, the Social Democrats' veteran disarmament expert and head of the Bundestag delegation, spent the day yesterday in search of common ground on the missiles question, but it seemed elusive. Diplomats here said it was wrong to suppose that Moscow had not yet said its "final word".

"There are times when you have to give what the Russians say at face value," one West European diplomat commented, "and this is one of them. What might have been common ground is rapidly filling up with rockets."

Diplomats believe that if Russia fails to prevent the Nato deployments it will abandon the Geneva medium-range talks as pointless while continuing the parallel talks on strategic arms (Sart). Soviet officials have hinted that cruise and Pershing 2s - once deployed and a fait accompli - could be incorporated into Sart and classified as "strategic".

● **BONN:** The talks this weekend between Herr Genscher and Mr Gromyko are seen here as the last chance for the Geneva negotiations (Michael Styrone writes).

Herr Genscher will draw on his long-standing professional relationship with Mr Gromyko to try to convince him that it is not too late for agreement if the Russians are ready to reply constructively to the latest American proposals.

He has already denied any intention of acting as a mediator between Moscow and Washington. But he will emphasize, in tones less ideological than those heard in Washington, the advantages of the latest Western offer, while insisting that the Russians will not shake Western resolution by threats or by encouragement of the peace movement.

Philippines in turmoil: Part 2

Divided opposition lacks panache

David Watts, South-East Asia Correspondent, has visited Manila to report on the turmoil since the murder in August of a leading opponent of President Marcos. In this second article he examines the prospects for political succession. His first article appeared on yesterday's feature page.



Mrs Marcos: obvious source of future power.

The assassination of Benigno Aquino and the years of martial law have robbed the Philippines of its political birthright: politicians of sufficient stature to take over when President Ferdinand Marcos leaves the scene.

Even as the health of the President wanes there is no political figure behind whom people can unite, no name which can spark enthusiasm like that of Aquino. More than six weeks after the former senator's death the opposition is still working hard on a joint programme, trying to patch together a "shadow" government which would lay claim to power when the President goes.

But these politicians know they can scarcely claim to be the men of the future, many of them having been associated with Mr Marcos in one way or another.

Politics in the Philippines in modern times has always been a question of money and patronage. After the declaration of martial law in 1972, President Marcos successfully raided the opposition parties for much of their talent. Traditional politics could not survive in the subsequent years, with the media controlled by Mr Marcos's men and with

the stuff Philippines politics are made of. Personalities with the panache of a Marcos are what is needed. The best the opposition can hope for is to have a set of figures standing by, should Mr Marcos suddenly go, to prevent what many fear may be bloody contest for power.

The most obvious source of future political power centres around the President's wife, Mrs Imelda Marcos. She already holds several important positions, including Minister of Human Settlements, which disburse a vast amount of government funding. She is also Governor of Metro Manila, the capital area.

She recently announced that she would retire from politics and play no part in next year's election should the ruling New Society Movement (NSM) allow her to step down. There is not likely to be a lack of KBL sponsors for a motion that she should stay, but any subsequent grab for power by Mrs Marcos would not be so well received by the public at large.

She would most likely have the backing of General Fabian Ver the armed forces Chief of Staff and the men who control the broad, high ground of the Philippines' natural resources industries.

General Ver represents far more than merely the Army and the Air Force, having control also of intelligence and the various special commands, including the Aviation Security Command (Avsec) which was in charge of security at

Manila airport the day that Aquino was murdered.

General Ver's son is said to be in command of the armoured units that have been brought into the capital in case of trouble.

The general has recently increased his influence as both of his chief rivals, Mr Juan Ponce Enrile, the Defence Minister, and Lieutenant-General Fidel Ramos, who commands the Philippine constabulary, have had their powers limited by President Marcos.

But General Ver is not a popular figure in the Army and can only hope to maintain his present position so long as the Marcos family rules. Whether he could rally the armed forces behind Mrs Marcos is in doubt especially in the light of recent unrest at the Philippine Military Academy.

Mrs Marcos's erratic and free-spending ways would not make her a President to delight Washington. The man most likely to find favour there would be Mr Cesar Virata, the present Prime Minister, an American-trained technocrat, who has done his best to see that policies recommended by the International Monetary Fund are carried out. Indeed, it is said that the presence of Mr Virata in the Government is the primary reason that the Philippines continues to get IMF credits.

But since the Aquino murder no one can safely predict the future.

Concluded

China joins nuclear watchdog agency

Vienna (Reuters) - China was yesterday admitted to the International Atomic Agency, the watchdog body which operates safeguards and inspections on civil nuclear reactors.

Approval of China's application, was by a unanimous show of hands at the agency's general conference here, China becomes its one hundred and twelfth member.

China will have to deposit with the US Government an instrument of acceptance of the statutes of IAEA, the atomic agency, a UN-affiliated body, before it can become a fully active member.

The country will not be bound by its membership to conform to the agency's international safeguards and inspection system, but it will be under pressure from other members to do so voluntarily, diplomats said.

Other states with nuclear weapons - the US, Britain and France - have voluntary safeguard agreements with the International Atomic Agency.

Mr Hans Blix, the agency's director-general, said that China could both benefit from and contribute to global cooperation in the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

Mr Donald Hodel, the US Energy secretary said "This decision by the world's most populous country, and a nation with a growing nuclear programme, is of great significance."



Tail down: A Boeing 747 owned by Flying Tigers air freight company sitting on the tarmac at Frankfurt yesterday after part of its cargo broke loose and smashed through the fuselage.

Oppenheimer will vote against electoral reform

From Michael Horvath, Johannesburg

Mr Harry Oppenheimer, the doyen of South African industrialists and former chairman of the Anglo-American Corporation, the world's biggest mining group, says he will vote "No" on November 2 in the all-white referendum on the Constitution Bill, passed by Parliament last August, but not yet promulgated.

If the Bill is approved, it will probably be put into effect early next year. It would extend the franchise, on separate voters' rolls, to the Indian and mixed-blood Coloured minorities, whose representatives would sit in different chambers alongside the white chamber. The legislative function of the new chambers, however, would be little more than advisory.

Mr Oppenheimer, who retired as chairman of Anglo at the end of last year but still heads De Beers, the corporation's diamond mining arm, said his decision was made "with regret, certainly, but with no doubt in my mind."

Mr P. W. Botha, the Prime Minister, had shown courage in pursuing reform, Mr Oppenheimer said, but had "found it necessary to structure this reform in a way which en-

trenches the power of the white majority party (the ruling National Party).

The Government had also failed to consider the political rights of the millions of urban and rural blacks who wanted to remain South African citizens and rejected independence on Pretoria's terms.

What the Government had in mind for blacks, Mr Oppenheimer said, it had been made plain that it did not include a share in parliamentary power.

Opinion among white English-speaking businessmen is divided over the referendum. Most are expected to vote "Yes", believing the Constitution Bill represents a small, if inadequate, step, in the right direction.

The most interesting development has been the upsurge of black opposition. It had been thought that they were indifferent to what they saw as an all-white exercise.

But in the past few weeks, blacks of all political shades, led by Kwa Zulu's Chief Buthelezi, have warned of a violent backlash if blacks are permanently excluded from South Africa's constitutional future.

Farmer dies using gun to club black

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg

A farmer was killed by a shot from his own gun as he beat a black labourer with the butt, it was reported yesterday.

Mr Petrus Van Der Merwe, who was 46, swung the gun at Mr David Radebe, who had worked for him for 15 years, as they argued about a pick-up truck stuck in mud near his farm at Credfort, Orange Free State.

His son, Johannes said that two shots went off as his father swung the gun first time but they went wide.

The third time he struck Mr Radebe the butt broke and another shot went off which hit Mr Van Der Merwe in the stomach, killing him instantly.

Namibia unit blamed for death

From Our Own Correspondent, Johannesburg

Members of a police counter-insurgency unit in Namibia were yesterday found guilty by an inquest court of causing the death of a black detainee last year "by an unlawful act or omission".

The unnamed policemen were members of the Koevoet (Afrikaans for crowbar), an anti-guerrilla unit with a grisly reputation for brutality and ruthlessness.

Mr A. H. Coetzee, the magistrate who presided at the inquest with a forensic pathologist, said that Mr. Jona Hamukwaya, the detainee, had probably died from a head injury as a result of an unlawful act by certain members of the Koevoet.

Mr Hamukwaya was arrested by a Koevoet detachment on November 18, last year in northern Namibia. The police said they were looking for Swapo guerrillas who had been given food by villagers in the area.

Witnesses at the inquest, in Rundu, north-eastern Namibia, said they had seen Koevoet policemen hitting Mr Hamukwaya in the chest and back with rifle butts.

Police kill two

Chihuahua, Mexico (AP) - Police charged and fired into a crowd of leftist protesters at a small town in northern Mexico, killing a 76-year-old man and a small child and wounding at least 20 other people.

Far from home

Jiddah (AP) - A thirsty Dutch carrier pigeon found in the desert near here has been returned to the Netherlands.

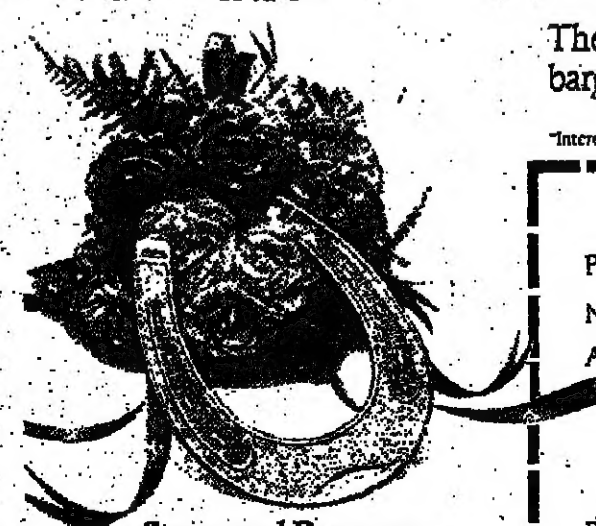
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THE ARTS

Along with other stirring tales of old South Bank battles from the boardroom to the picket line, Peter Hall's *Diaries* have reopened the director's can of worms that occasioned the resignations of Jonathan Miller and Michael Blamire.

Briefly, the story begins at the turn of the Seventies with Hall's arrival at the National Theatre and his simultaneous conversion to the doctrine of militant classicism. To the consternation of his admirers, the director of *The Wars of the Roses* and the drop-out *Hamlet* announced that he was turning his back on these youthful follies and would be playing no more topical games with the nation's masterpieces.

Even while Hall was setting up his cultural strongroom Miller was raiding it and gleefully spilling the contents away to Edwardian Venice and colonial Nigeria - taking his cue from the kind of intellectual buccannery that had made things hum at Stratford in the previous decade. By 1970, Miller's star was rising towards Hall's zenith, and not the least of the ills that befell the new National Theatre was the fatal conjunction that brought them together for two unhappy years and a much-publicized divorce.

The effect of this personal split was to divide the classical theatre itself into rival factions with Hall and Miller cast as opposing figureheads. Hall stood for centres of excellence; Miller for lightweight, fly-by-night operations. Hall stood for official classicism; Miller for iconoclastic novelty. Miller, working with stars, Miller with



In the wake of Sir Peter Hall's *Diaries*, Irving Wardle reveals that Hall and Jonathan Miller have much more in common as directors than the public image of antagonism might suggest

Theatre perceived as a team game

"Official classicism"

enthusiastic trouper like the *Measure for Measure* company which, he said, had been collected from the bottom of Peter Hall's toolbox.

This, however, was not an independent assessment of the two men, but how they chose to present themselves to interviewers. Directors are the most articulate of all theatrical publicists, and what they say about themselves is apt to get printed and believed. If Hall and Miller had not been the source of so much readable copy, and if we had only their work to go on, I doubt whether we would ever have seen them as adversaries at all.

Take, for instance, the dispute over "conceptual" versus "faithful" production. This seems to me an entirely illusory issue, as either approach is at the mercy of what

happens in rehearsal. Hall's *Diaries* record an associates' meeting at which Miller alarmed the company by proposing to direct an all-male version of *The Importance of Being Earnest* (why not, in view of the NT's previous all-male *As You Like It* and its subsequent all-black *Measure for Measure*). Miller did not get his show; but a year or two later he directed *The Importance* at Greenwich with a German Lady Bracknell, which struck some people as an outrageous gimmick; and others as a piercing insight into the Wilhelminian influence on late Victorian aristocracy.

To Hall, this must have seemed like going over better than a baritone Gwendolen. But, according to Miller, his Lady Bracknell was having a memory block ("He's not very good at pointing a line,

Oscar"), and improvising a blotting-paper approximation of the text. Miller's remedy was to suggest that the whole company played in joke voices; whereupon the actress took advantage of her half-German advantage, and showed herself in crisp, faultlessly memorized command of the lines. How many directors' masterstrokes, over which reviewers have rhapsodized, have derived from solving some basic acting problem?

I would like to know, for example, how far Hall's decision to include the English sub-plot in *Volpone* derived from John Gielgud's readiness to play Sir Politick Would-Be; and whether the presence of a plump singer in his *Othello* cast gave Miller the idea of presenting the romantic

hesitant of Franz Schubert.

Theatre being a team activity, the answer to such questions may not normally matter very much; it only starts to matter when someone raises the spectre of a jackbooted autocrat dragging actors and text into the service of a single interpretative viewpoint. Such an idea was abroad during the decade of the Hall *Diaries*. I wondered what truth there was in it, and in 1979, while this newspaper was suspended, I seized the chance of switching from the mistrusted role of reviewer to the increasingly indulged role of observer. The National Theatre was extremely hospitable, and gave me access to the rehearsals of William Gaskill, Christopher Morahan, John Dexter and Peter Hall. I also had a whale of

a time at Greenwich during Miller's rehearsals of *She Would If She Could*.

As you would expect, the experience revealed a great variety of working methods, which are outside the scope of this article. What is the point is that there was not one intellectual terrorist on the scene, and no cherished textual interpretation that was not modified or discarded by contact with the human element.

Dexter began work on *As You Like It* with the idea of setting the play in a continuous environment of peasant drudgery and seasonal rituals. That idea went down the drain as did Gaskill's elaborately formalized duels for *A Fair Quarell* (thanks in part to the NATRE crew who had left a large hole in the middle of his stage). For each

director, you could envisage a non-theatrical equivalent: navigator, Socratic analyst, sports coach. But none of them pulled rank.

Two memories that stand out are of Hall getting up and improvising a stream of baby-talk for Constance during one of the last scenes of *Amadeus*, and Miller contemplating his matriarchal leading lady, laid flat on her back by a fit of the vapours, and asking two of the company to manhandle her off-stage like a Laurel and Hardy plank. Each director, it seemed to me, could have changed places with the other. Hall does not go off into Miller's cadenzas of baroque clowning (who does?), but, when it came to the practice of directing, their approach seemed identical. Unlike Dexter, who knows his texts and footnotes by heart, they do not go in for academic preparation. Hall's statement that his ideas "do not really take shape until working with people on the stage" applies equally to Miller, who disdains improvisation exercises, as his way of rehearsing a text amounts to a prolonged improvisation. Both love getting in among the actors, and conducting a professional task in an atmosphere of energetic fun.

Above all, both derive their authority not from any pre-arranged master-plan but from the capacity to think very fast on their feet. Directors, as it is, do not see each other at work. Whether or not this goes for Hall and Miller I cannot say; but I quit my spell as an observer feeling that much wasterful antagonism might have been avoided if each could have been a fly on the other's wall.

Music in London

Touch of elitism

Brandis Quartet
Queen Elizabeth Hall

Encouragingly described in their publicity material as "an elitist ensemble", the Brandis Quartet of Berlin proved, in Beethoven's Op 18 No 1, to be a quartet of soloists in the best sense. Such equal-voiced playing seemed apt as in his revision of this piece before publication the composer was concerned with an even-handed distribution of musical interest between the instruments.

Beethoven is traditionally thought to have had *Korner* and *Juliet* tomb scene in mind when composing the slow movement, and the work's main weight lies here - perhaps unduly so. It was a bit smooth, but the Brandis players showed an appreciation of the finale's humour and the sophisticated of its sonata-rondo form, especially the moments of contrapuntal rest.

Despite the above encomium, there were Beethovenian passages where one was not sure if the cello's bass line was strong enough, and during Wolf's *Italian Serenade* the first violin's part was occasionally understated. There was an engagingly instantaneous response, though, to this music's shifting moods, now whimsical, now insistent.

Quite different sorts of equivocation are sometimes at work in Schubert's C major Quintet, for which the Brandis ensemble was joined by Steven Isserlis as second cellist. The consequent richness was always finely controlled, and this, somewhat paradoxically, was a result of the fully flowering expressiveness of each line.

Every nuance appeared to relate to all other nuances, and nowhere more so, of course, than in the Adagio.

No amount of familiarity can make this other than one of chamber music's profoundest experiences, and it was perfectly just that those widely arching melodies received the evening's most memorable playing.

Max Harrison

Debuts

It is strange that London has not heard the Russian violinist Rostislav Medvedev. Now 41, and domiciled in West Germany, he arrived at the Wigmore Hall not as a tentative debutant but with a boldness springing from total command of his instrument. In a first half of Vivaldi, Tartini and César Franck he now and again emerged too highly-strung.

Even Franck's ardent Sonata seemed at times to burst out of its skin, with Gordon Back, otherwise admirable, forgetting how easily the piano can dominate the second movement. But thanks to pungent attack and rhythmic tension, also a very wide range of dynamics and colour, Mr Medvedev's F minor Sonata was as interestingly vivid. Nor can he be over-praised for the potent contrast of mood *medium in pivo*, that he found in 10 Preludes from Shostakovich's Op 34 in an uncommonly telling transcription for violin and piano by Dmitri Tsyganov.

The Spanish pianist Mario Momré was a virtuoso of unusual control, able to throw off seven Transcendental Studies by Liszt and the *Carner Fantasy* chosen as first encore as effortlessly as if they had been grade-one exercises. He had formidable strength to match lightning dexterity, and always maintained the clearest texture. In climaxes he was inclined to harden his tone, certainly to an excessive degree for a work such as Chopin's B minor Sonata, while in this composer's more intimate lyricism his cantabile was insufficiently luminous. But both the Sonata and the Barcarolle found him appreciative of their logic and larger shape. If only there had been evidence of a more immediate and personal emotional commitment, of a keener sense of wonder, this would have been a recital to remember.

It was hardly to be expected that a trio from France called Les Idées Beethovenes would discharge their country's Baroque and twentieth-century music with equal authority. Denis Ariot's harpsichord account of Couperin's "Les Dominos" was in fact as sensitively executed as it was deeply felt, but the flautist, Pierre Miscevic, sounded futuristic in this early period, and the brave soprano, Veronica Grange, less than completely assured in intonation and vocal production. But, though still handicapped by small tone, the flautist met the demands of Honegger and Rouseau with more conviction after the interval, while the singer, too, proved infinitely more tonally and expressively beguiling in Poulenc, Roussel and a pithy now 1920s-type Cocteau cycle, *Trousse de voyage*, by the versatile Denis Ariot, now at the piano.

Joan Chissell

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Theatre

Variations on a classic theme

Fly Away Home
Lyric Studio,
Hammersmith

Any man who has ever longed to escape from nappy-buckets and sleepless nights to a solitary garret with a typewriter will readily identify with the hero of William Humble's play, at least during its first half.

Tim, who sees himself as the Balzac of the North London Polytechnic, first quits his student pad and settles reluctantly for an inner-city house as the price of marriage to Anna. Andy, his old flatmate, may mock, but nobody could call Clapham Junction bourgeois, and raising a family there is out of the question. Anna, however, swiftly contrives a pregnancy, and it is out to the leafy suburbs and a grinding domestic round that turns Mr Humble's retrospective into a thing of the past.

Inch by inch, Tim loses all his most cherished ground, and takes his revenge with incantatory singing and bloody-mindedness, hanging on to the idea of his unwritten novel as the last outpost of his old identity.

Fly Away Home enacts this glum variation on the classic theme of the artist man and the mother woman in the form of a morality play: defined at the Lyric by Roger Glossop's divided stage with a central area of blackness flanked by the suburban living room and the squalid Acton flat. While a table is laid for dinner in one area, baked beans are spooned up in the other; and Tim is stranded between two ways of life, not knowing to which he belongs.

Also, Mr Humble invokes the morality device of the good and evil angels, in the form of a fully married-up neighbour, Robbie, who dotes on his family, and the brutally non-attached Andy.

So far the play presents a standard pattern more than a particular story. In the second half, it starts making individual choices, and questions start

Just a Kick in the Grass
Nuffield, Southampton

Richard Ireson's play about football corruption has been worth waiting for. In March the trustees of Bromley's Churchill Theatre cancelled a planned premiere, blaming Ireson's language; suspicious grew that his grim picture of boardroom frauds and a bent Fraud Squad was the real offence, but after overhearing shocked older patrons at the Nuffield I am not so sure.

What did they expect from a play whose cast-list stretches from the former know-boy chairman to the hoodlums on the terraces? Actually they talk much the same way, thus strengthening the impression of a continuum of thuggery with skinheads at one end, detectives

Joanne Brackeen
Ronnie Scott's

There was a time, perhaps bracketed by the deaths of Charlie Parker in 1955 and John Coltrane in 1967, when what we call modern jazz lost friends through the insistence of many fine musicians on ironing all conventional expressive nuance out of their playing. Instead of being punctuated by accent and pause, improvisations were delivered like electronic print-outs, with velocity and complexity seeming to be the only parameters.

Luckily, the avant garde of the 1960s and 1970s reversed this process: Ornette Coleman and Albert Ayler were two exemplars who broadened the



Playing from the guts: Hywel Bennett

creeping in. Why, for instance, is Tim so resistant to change, especially as he loves his son? It is not even as if he were writing his book. Rows and thunderous silences then explode into an act of separation - played from the guts by Diana Quick and Hywel Bennett as a classic encounter between a passionately neglected woman and an unfeeling man who casts his eyes up in despair even as he is putting an arm round her shoulder. But Mr Humble, can this truthful climax by sentimentally polishing off Tim's beloved son as well, thus bringing him round to maudlin remorse for destroying his chances of ordinary happiness.

At this point Mr Humble

springs a thrilling surprise. Anna returns to the stage to attack the play we have just seen as Tim's ultimate betrayal. Depending on who you look at it, she is invading his last sanctuary of private space, or taking a just revenge on all those writers who have exploited personal relationships under the pretext of art. The only problem here, though, is that the character of Tim is drawn with such guilt that you never feel he had it in him to write the play. Roger Lloyd Pack and Tim Woodward incisively define the domestic and epistolary extremes in Peter James's production.

Irving Wardle

expecting £1,000 bribes in the middle and a horsemeat-hamburger millionaire in the directors' box at the top.

Heller himself (John Bardon) is a memorably monstrous creation, telling the officers to make themselves useful beating up Blacks, tipping his players £20 when they reach the First Division ("like waiters"), one says bitterly, then watching impotently as they get thrashed by Liverpool and a smooth young local councillor unable to tell soccer from rugby (Michael Caddam) sorts out the deficit and snatches his job, his salary and his legacy secretary.

Mr Ireson's relief for damning his characters with well-observed detail slows the forward drive of the plot, and David Gilmour's production cannot hide that. But the parts prove wonderfully playable. Ballet's fur-coated missus

Jazz

range of gesture, while the graduates of Chicago's influential Association for the Advancement of Creative Musicians looked both forward and backward at the same time, to the point where many young improvisers now have more in common with the dramatically effervescent pre-modern styles of Bubba Miller and Tricky Sam Nanton than with the straight-faced beboppers of the Fifties.

Joanne Brackeen, a Californian pianist whose experience with the bands of Woody Shaw, Stan Getz and others has earned her a growing reputation, runs against this trend, indeed, the duets she is currently performing in London with the bassist Clint Houston represent a definition of the opposite approach.

(Brenda Fricker) would "rather watch gangsters fester" than a football fly, but is set on bringing her husband down before cancer stops her. Crippled by a foul, the team's black wonderboy (Ben Onwukwe) is thrown on the scrapheap with pitiful competence. The harmless simpleton who lives for winter Saturdays (Patrick Monckton) sees his home ground ploughed up for a more profitable shopping development.

And there the play shows its sympathies: greed, graft, privilege with a cosmetic common touch, have reduced a game, a source of fun, to the point where new shops and new jobs would actually do more good. For Mr Ireson, football's cancer is terminal and deserved - as challenging a kick-off to discussion as you could want.

Anthony Masters

Whether in such highly wrought original compositions as "Einstein" and "Special Identity" or the more familiar cadences of "My Romance", the sheer density of their outpourings floods the perceptions: as sometimes happens with Cecil Taylor, the drama is reduced simply because there is too much to absorb. Occasionally an isolated felicity shines through, such as one of Houston's sotto voce glides or Brackeen's way of terminating a series of rat-tat-tat block chords with a quick tremolo, but, while sincere admiration is an appropriate response to the music's logic, spirit and percussive drive, the heart does not really respond.

Richard Williams

Television

Keeping a sense of prestige

Frank Cvitanovich is a good film-maker but there is always a danger with his technique, of close observation without anyone intervening between camera and subject, that he can become so engrossed that the audience is left to its own devices - which, these days, can mean that, feeling rather neglected, they take advantage of the remote control and switch over.

His new series of three films began on Thames last night with *Thank You Jesus*, which focused on Pastor Jo Smith, a large, nattily dressed, attractive black lady whose Church of the New Testament Assembly offers a largely black congregation in Leyton a place of light and relief and diversion from their sufferings in the way of unemployment and social deprivation.

The worship at her church is emotional, rhythmic and catered into, whether it be penitential or celebratory, with a gusto that eventually carries along even those whites who appear to have more inhibition in these gatherings than blacks.

Pastor Smith told us that unemployment in this part of London's East End was highest among the blacks. She put it as high as seven out of 10; and expressed particular concern for youngsters who, she said, needed to be four or five times as brilliant as a white to compete successfully for a job. They were also, she said, suffering particularly because, unlike their forebears, they were less inclined to endure passively.

She also said that she was against black people trying to be

like whites and that she wanted them to behave as nature inclined them. She wanted them to be proud and avoid what she considered to be the worst injury individuals could do themselves, which was to do something that lowered their estimation of their own prestige.

We saw Pastor Smith going generally and pleasantly about her work at prayer services, playgroups, weddings and baptisms but, though the photography was intimate and good, we heard little of Pastor Smith's beliefs and philosophy, which was a pity because curiosity awakened but left unsatisfied is an irritant. No doubt Mr Cvitanovich has the answers but he did not let on. Let us hope his next two films will be more explicit.

Dennis Hackett

Opera

Les Troyens
Metropolitan,
New York

The one-hundredth Metropolitan Opera season opened with more pomp and ceremony than usual. Because of the festive nature of the occasion, more of the audience were white, and, and, because of the elevated nature of the musical offering, more of the audience kept silent during the performance. The offering was Berlioz's *Les Troyens*, complete, in its first revival since it was originally seen here in 1973.

James Levine was in full charge of the large forces necessary for this sprawling opera, and conducted a performance notable for its fervour, pace and clear elucidation of the orchestral colours Berlioz built into *Les Troyens*, the true nineteenth-century epic counterweight to Wagner. Levine's overall slow pacing of the Trojan acts, and his quickness in the Carthage ones, somewhat restricted the individuality of tempo that is so

characteristic of Berlioz's music, but his handling of the supreme Act IV sequence of quartet, septet and duet was masterly, with the septet in its hushed serenity unfolding in radiance.

Jessye Norman made her debut as Cassandra, and she rightly dominated the Trojan acts with her presence and her command of French. She is a majestically tortured, rather than a neurotic princess, subsuming within herself the woes she sees for her people and expiating them in her final sacrifice.

The Didon, Tatiana Troyanos, was a more humanly-scaled figure of tragedy, both anguished and resigned, and though she conveyed the music with great feeling the voice lacks the anticipatory clarity and that tensioned musical line Berlioz demands. The two singers will switch roles later in the run.

Plácido Domingo served both the lyric and declamatory aspects of Enée with grace and power, aided by some discreet downward transpositions in his set-piece, "Immortal regrets" he served both at once. The

secondary cast was uniformly good, with honours to Allan Monk's Chorus and Douglas Ahlstedt's Iphigene.

Peter Wexler's garish sets for the original production have been reworked, to their benefit, but there is still too much aimless turntable-action in the Trojan acts, as the walls totter about the stage; the horse is reduced to an oversized dragon head; and the whole opera is centred on a very dated elevated disc. The Royal Hunt sequence, originally done with films, is now presented as an orchestral interlude, without action.

Fabrizio Melano, the producer, chose to direct the opera as a semi-oratorio, with a minimum of stage movement, and this added to its impact, since much of what Berlioz created that is timeless is contained less in the action than in the music itself. In this setting, the principals and the music were to the fore (the principals often at the front of the stage). It was, as an evening, a deserved homage to a great work.

Patrick J. Smith

Dance

Swan Lake
Covent Garden

It is unusual for the leading man to hog the attention in *Swan Lake*, but these are unusual circumstances, with two successive performances at Covent Garden each introducing a new Siegfried to the Royal Ballet's production. Jay Jolley's debut was planned - an experienced dancer just recruited from Festival Ballet, where he had built a strong reputation. Jonathan Cope was hurried into the role at about a fortnight's notice because of a colleague's incapacity; he joined the company exactly a year ago, straight from the Royal Ballet School.

Cope's only previous experience of a big leading role was as Albrecht for his graduation, but that was enough to mark him out for coming prominence, and he had already been picked for a leading part in Richard Alston's new ballet in December. All the same, a four-act classic is another matter.

It is his height, coupled with his strength and skill in partnering, that gives Cope an edge on his contemporaries. Playing opposite Pippa Wyke, one of the tallest soloists, he gave absolutely secure, assured support throughout. As a soloist, Cope has a better jump than the (generally disappointing) Royal Ballet average; apart from that his technique looks sound, well-balanced, not at this stage notably brilliant, but perfectly presentable.

He and Wyke both acted their roles thoughtfully, intelligently, but without much apparent emotion. She tends to a cool, reserved manner any-

way, so Cope may find a warmer expressiveness later when matched with other partners. The pleasure in Wyke's performance - coming from seeing the dancer smoothly and efficiently displayed.

Marguerite Fortier, Odette/Odile at the other performance, has a more fragile technique: rather soft round the edges, and she flunks the *fouettés*. But Jay Jolley's experienced, helpful care, showed her to best advantage in the adagio, just as his engaging presence and lively sense of theatrical presentation made the most of her winsome acting.

Jolley clearly relishes the big

romantic ballets (indeed, he left his native America five years ago to be able to dance them). His arrival at Covent Garden will fill a gap, since the established leading men there tend more towards a dramatic style, and his example should encourage and help the younger hopefuls.

Among these, I must mention another of only one year's standing, Bruce Sansom; his dancing, beautifully matched with Stephen Sieruff's, brought exceptionally smooth, brilliant steps to the Ashton *pas de quatre* in Act III.

John Percival

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SPECTRUM



Communist aggression and lies constitute the great temptation of our time, according to Jeane Kirkpatrick. In a last extract from her conversation with George Urban, she tells why this is so

The ignorance of Western intellectuals

Kirkpatrick: I don't find it difficult to explain the West European position on El Salvador - although I think it very short-sighted. It represents an extraordinary blindness and/or indifference to the security interests of the US. For what is the message our European Allies are sending us when criticising our positions in Central America and voting against us at the UN? Is it this? That the US is expected to be concerned about the security of Western Europe, but Western Europe need not have a reciprocal concern about the security of the US?

Now, I grant you that the US is a member of a Nato alliance which is explicitly concerned with the security of Western Europe, while the West European countries are not members of any alliance that would guarantee the security of the USA in its own hemisphere. But the fact is that the Caribbean and Central America constitute the fourth border of the USA. The Soviets perceived very accurately as early as 1967 that this area was a kind of "soft underbelly" of the US, and that our capacity to act forcefully elsewhere in the world depended on our freedom from a serious threat to our security on our borders. It follows that US security in Central America ought to be a prime concern of Europe.

The full text of the conversation between J. Kirkpatrick and George Urban will appear in the 30th anniversary issue of *Encounter* on October 20. George Urban is a writer and historian specialising in Soviet affairs. Jeane Kirkpatrick is the US Ambassador to the UN.

What disturbed me a great deal at the UN was the discovery of the multiple issues on which the US, the UK, and Western Europe have different perspectives.

The most disturbing for me have been the human rights issues. All Western nations have repeatedly acquiesced in ignoring massive human rights violations by the Soviets and their satellites (Poland, Cuba, Vietnam, Ethiopia), and focus their protests on the real but both qualitatively and quantitatively lesser violations committed by traditional non-communist anti-communist autocracies in Latin America, and also in Israel.

Urban: But has the US pursued a different and more principled course?

Kirkpatrick: Not really. Until the arrival of the present Administration, the US passively acquiesced in all this. Since last year, however, we have declared war on using such double standards, especially in the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva.

Last year, in Geneva, we finally managed (in cooperation with the West European countries) to pass a weak resolution on Poland, calling on the Secretary-General at least to investigate human rights abuses there. Unbelievably, this was the first human-rights resolution affecting a communist country which was ever passed by the Human Rights Commission. And, as I say, though important, it was much weaker than the human rights resolutions regularly endorsed by a Third Committee of the UN General Assembly on Guatemala, El Salvador, Uruguay, or Chile.

Right now, it is almost impossible to interest the West European friends in human rights violations in Nicaragua, even though we have incontrovertible documentary evidence to show that the Sandinista régime is subjecting many thousands of Miskito Indians to the most brutal maltreatment.

All this leads me to the disquieting conclusion I have already mentioned: that some Western nations have a highly politicized concept of the moral issues involved, that they are apparently indifferent to the security interests of the US in Central and South America; and that they are too often content to acquiesce in human rights policies whose principal functions is to serve the political interests of the Soviet bloc. Sweden provides the extreme example of all these tendencies. Their human rights policies in the UN bodies are highly ideological and by no means "neutral" in their political content.

Urban: May I return, to end this long colloquy, to what we have said about the extraordinary predilection of Western intellectuals - and a sector of Western youth for giving the benefit of the doubt (and more than that) to communist régimes. Haven't we read too many clever things into their motivations? The majority of them - or so it seems to me - are just angry young men and women raging at the limitations of the human condition. May of them do not even consciously support socialism. They simply echo man's anguished cry since the beginning of time: "There has to be a better world, or life, or society than this one."

Don't you think that this vague longing - this non-specific, negative Utopianism, this really adolescent urge to tear down the temple - is perhaps all we have to look for when trying to explain "the reason of the right?"

Kirkpatrick: That is certainly the main source of the intellectual confusion. Alienation from existing authority - not economic role - is the principle determinant of their susceptibility to totalitarianism. Totalitarian ideologies promise an end of "alienation." False consciousness, isolation, anomie, separation, loneliness, purposelessness - all are defined as subjective consequences of objective social ills, therefore as capable of being



'Most disturbing for me have been the human rights issues'

eradicated through social engineering.

The intellectuals we have in mind act in a spirit that assumes that human nature in the future may be qualitatively different from what it was in the past, a spirit that views each situation as *tabula rasa* on which a plan can be imposed, and therefore sees experience in other times and places as having no real relevance. Intuition becomes more important than experience, intelligence than custom. Yet the most extraordinary fact about our times is, to say it again, the tenacity with which persons who pride themselves on being rational and scientific hold to a mystical faith in political propositions which are demonstrably false and unreasonable.

Despite the fact that Communist parties have no reliable relation to the masses do not come to power through mass action, do not submit industry to the control of the people or organize production for the benefit of the workers, and do not in general rule at the pleasure of the masses - a vast body of myth, misunderstanding and confusion supports the notion that there is some sort of mystical affinity of communism and "the people."

The notion persists that communists are somehow morally superior to other elites which use amoral means to gain power and impose repressive minority dictatorships. The sources are several.

One is the semantic confusion fostered by the communists themselves through their through their systematic use of language. By calling "autonomous" that which is powerless, "federated" that which is unitary, "democratic" that which is autocratic, "united" that which is imposed by terror, "peaceful" that which incites war in brief, by systematically corrupting language to obscure reality - the communists have made inroads into our sense of political reality. Language is, after all, the only medium in which we can think. It is exceedingly difficult to eliminate all the traditional connotations of words - to associate phrases like "For a Lasting Peace and a People's Democracy" with neither peace nor popular movements nor democracy.

A related form of semantic subversion, practised by communist parties everywhere, is the effort to capture prestigious symbols, slogans, and traditions. Communist parties in the underdeveloped world attempt to identify themselves with the slogans of nationalism and anti-colonialism. Communists in France attempt to identify themselves with the symbols of the *Résistance*, the French Revolution, and the tradition of the left. French communists have attempted to capture Victor Hugo, as American communists staked a claim to Tom Paine and Abraham Lincoln.

Communism does not grow by winning support for its own values. Neither members nor followers are regularly recruited through the appeal of communist values. Communism grows by identifying itself with the prestige symbols of competing movements and so blurring issues, stakes and alignments.

If communist parties spoke of *collectivism* to peasants; of *internationalism* to the new nations; of *inexorable conflict* to intellectuals; of *monolithic conformity* to the working classes; and of *dictatorship* to the middle classes - in short, if communist parties attempted to recruit support through the appeal of their own real values, the lines of conflict would be clearly drawn. Communism, whose values have a sharply limited appeal, would be readily defeated.

The political temptation of "the

new class" of intellectuals we have been puzzling over in this conversation lies in the belief that its members' intelligence and exemplary motives equip them to reorder the institutions, the lives, and even the characters of almost everyone by violence if necessary - this is the totalitarian temptation.

The destruction of Korean airliner 007 by Soviet rockets provides further evidence that violence and lies are regular instruments of Soviet policy and obliterate the conventional boundaries between peace and war. Soviet officials regularly behave as though with were only what they said it was - and as if violence were an instrument of first resort in foreign affairs. These Soviet actions and claims illuminate the Soviet conception of appropriate relations among nations in peace time.

We, on the other hand, believe that truth is as vital to cooperation and peace among nations as among people. It is depressing to consider a world in which a major nation equipped with the most powerful modern weapons believes it has a sovereign right to fire on a commercial airliner lost over its territory.

We are dealing here, not with the decisions of individuals, but with the decisions and priorities characteristic of the Soviet system. Not only did Soviet officials order the destruction of a civilian airliner and lie about it, they have also refused offers of international participation in search-and-rescue efforts in spite of international agreed-upon standards and practices.

We are reminded once again that the Soviet Union is a state based on the twin principles of callousness and mendacity, dedicated to the role of force, and governed by the idea of the dictatorship of the proletariat which in 1920 Lenin defined in these words: "The scientific concept of dictatorship means nothing more than unrestricted power, absolutely unimpeded by law or regulations and resting directly on force."

It is this principle of force - this mentality of force - that lies at the root of the Korean Airline tragedy. This is the reality we all must ponder as we consider the threats to peace and human rights that face all of us today.

© 1983, Jeane Kirkpatrick and George Urban.

moreover...
Miles Kington

Eye of the storm

According to an opinion poll taken in Soviet Russia last week, more than 99 per cent of the population said yes. And that was before they'd even been asked a question.

This East European joke, which came out of the Moscow computer over the weekend during one of its routine propaganda sessions, does not necessarily reflect the editorial policy of the *Moreover* magazine. With the advent of the first autumn poll in Britain (Kington closes gap on Thatcher), our hearts sink collectively. It does not take an extensive statistical survey to prove that a new, young leader of the Labour Party will gain in popularity during his honeymoon period, any more than we need an opinion poll to prove that the weather is getting cooler.

There are several things about the Soviet Union which seem attractive from a distance, mostly the absence of things we find irksome here. They don't have opinion polls, or advertising, or ten trailers before the feature film, or peace demonstrations clogging up the traffic. It's a shame in a way that we only praise the Soviets for things they haven't got, never for anything they've got, but it's nice to be able to praise them for something. And something they haven't got in profusion, I have realized over the past week, is storms.

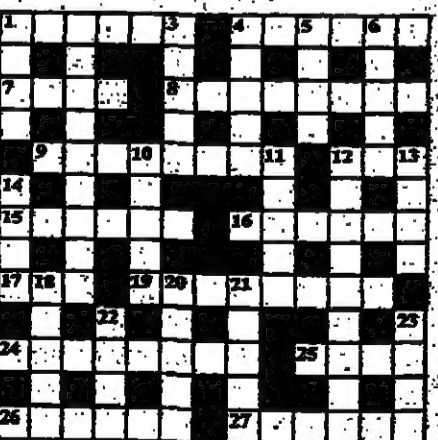
The storm we have had in the past week is the Cecil Parkinson storm. You may have read about it. When Cecil Parkinson announced that he intended to go on living with his wife, there was an immediate storm. We knew there was a storm because the newspapers said so, a storm which grew, which raged about his head, which blew through Westminster and which threatened to bring down, if not the Tory Party, at least Cecil Parkinson.

The oddest thing about this storm, as with so many newspaper storms, was that it seemed to have no visible effect outside newspapers. No walls were knocked down in Yorkshire, no trees fell across roads in the Midlands. I have travelled extensively on public transport the last week, and cavedropped on conversations in all our major pubs, and not once have I heard a reference to the Parkinson storm. People are simply not talking about it. I am reluctantly coming to the conclusion, however, though it sounds that this storm has been a stark storm which happened only in Fleet Street and did not affect even nearby streets.

One explanation for this may be that the public were puzzled by not finding the Parkinson drama enacted on television. It is an exact replay, with the sexes reversed, of the earlier *Coronation Street* drama, in which Ken Barlow's wife decided to leave him and then change her mind at the last moment. The nationwide interest was enormous, but this was because we could watch it every night on TV, and share in Deirdre's struggle with herself. But when the public switched on to look for Mr Parkinson holding his wife's hand and saying: "I'll make a po of it if you will" (music, credits), they looked in vain. They could believe in Ken Barlow, because they could see him with their own eyes; Mr Cecil Parkinson, I'm afraid, they tend to think of as a fictional character.

The great question remains: why do the newspapers go on believing in the existence of, and the great storm around, Mr Cecil Parkinson? And here I have a confession to make. I did not consult last Sunday's *heavies* for the answer. I am sure the answer was there. It always is there. The trouble is, it is always accompanied by an immensely complex and illegible diagram which invariably defeats me and makes me feel inferior. Sometimes it is labelled "Why Japanese air control missed Korean airliner", at other times it is labelled "How they defeated the Maze security system" or "Why oil slicks will go on happening", but it is always the same diagram with Sunday it was, presumably, labelled "How the Parkinson Storm grew", but readers will have to forgive me if I had not the heart to study it.

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 173)



- ACROSS
- Blackcurrant
 - Set of principles (4)
 - Bigfoot (9)
 - Cub unit leader (5)
 - Male succession law (5)
 - Verifiable truth (4)
 - Mistake (5)
 - Criscross weave (5)
 - Young eel (5)
 - Intravenous solution (4,5)
 - Impudent talk (4)
 - Flightless bird (4)
 - Splash with water (5)
 - Supercilious (5)
 - Senior society member (5)
 - Soviet Russia (1,1,1,1)
 - Jewish homeland (4)
- DOWN
- 11 Eye level
 - 12 Pur 15 Electrode
 - 13 Onus
 - 14 Tetracle
 - 15 Debreit
 - 16 Mason
 - 17 Seam
 - 18 Embury
 - 19 2 Cause
 - 20 3 Rip
 - 21 4 Street
 - 22 5 FIDE
 - 23 6 Equable
 - 24 7 Wood
 - 25 8 Weeny
 - 26 9 Coast

SOLUTION TO No 172
ACROSS: 1 Issue 5 FIF 9 Ursup 9 Redneck
11 Eye level 12 Pur 15 Electrode 13 Onus
14 Tetracle 15 Debreit 16 Mason 17 Seam
18 Embury
DOWN: 2 Cause 3 Rip 4 Street 5 FIDE
6 Equable 7 Wood 8 Weeny 9 Coast
10 Seim 23 Mob

Caroline Moorehead looks at science fiction, the folklore of the twentieth century

The message from outer space

The timing of the recent speculation about a UFO's visit to a Suffolk pine forest could hardly have been better. This week the Book Marketing Council begins its promotion of 20 science-fiction writers. The alien visitor serves to illustrate how, at least on one level, our attitudes towards space have scarcely changed in nearly a century. For the Tanham Wood spacecraft - a fast-moving object with powerful lights, disgorging a red ball full of beings in silver spacesuits - is little different from H. G. Wells's Martians, who arrived in the guise of a falling star on Woking Common in the mid 1890s.

Science fiction, so the experts say, is the most misunderstood genre in modern writing. No one can agree either when it began (Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*? The publication of the first science-fiction magazines in America in the mid 1920s?) or quite how to define it. "Any fiction inspired by science and scientific change," says J. G. Ballard. "Any book," says Christopher Priest, "rather more mockingly, 'that has sci-fi on its cover'."

In its list of 20 authors the Book Marketing Council includes H. G. Wells, Aldous Huxley and George Orwell alongside Ballard, Brian Aldiss and Michael Moorcock. The choice has been widely criticized, as Christopher Priest explains: "If you wish to, you can drag in any number of writers and call them science-fiction authors. Huxley and Orwell would turn in their graves."

What, then, defines science fiction? For publishers and writers alike the term appears to cover all writing that is speculative about the future, and some that is speculative about non-existent past. The traditional BEM (bug-eyed monster), clanking robots and the random rearrangement of time have not vanished as popular themes. Instead they have been joined by every permutation of modern science, in-



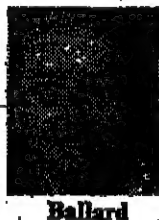
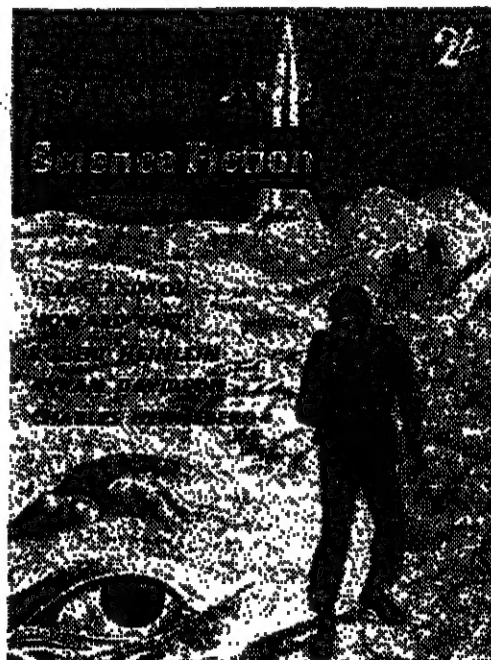
Clarke



Asimov



Wyndham



Ballard



Aldiss



Moorcock

cluding psychology, sociology, linguistics and medicine, although, as Brian Aldiss once put it, they almost always end with nemesis clobbering hubris.

At one extreme lies the esoteric work of Ian Watson, the Oxford academic who writes about structuralism; at the other end of the spectrum is the popular and garish comics with their ingredients of horror, sadomasochism and the occult. In between, there is time travel, genetic mutation, Arthurian legend (very successful), "paranoid sci-fi", and enjoying a considerable current popularity the "fuzzies", typically "golden-furred and emerald-eyed, the largest of them two feet tall".

There is also, of course, Tolkien-inspired fantasy, often selling better than "pure" science fiction, though again definitions blur. "If it has a rocket on the cover, it's sci-fi," says Dick Judge, manager of *Forbidden*

Planet. London's science-fiction bookshop off the Charing Cross Road. "If it has a naked barbarian, it's fantasy."

Whatever the vocabulary the "genre" as all fans call it, appears to be booming once again. It is dominating the *New York Times* best seller lists (in the shape of Robert Heinlein's *Friday*, Arthur C. Clarke's *2001*, James A. Michener's *Space* and Isaac Asimov's *Foundations*) and accounting for up to 20 per cent of some British paperback publisher's entire turnover. John Wyndham for example, has sold almost six million books in paperback alone. For aficionados it is a cult with its accepted classics - Clarke's *2001*, Frank Herbert's *Dune*.

Leaving aside the question of science fiction's literary genesis, the genre achieved its commercial launch in the 1920s when the "pulp", with their threatened maidens in wispy

gauze, soon won enormous and steady audiences.

By the late 1950s some half-dozen glossy magazines - such as *Amazing*, *New Worlds* or *Galaxy* - were selling 140,000 copies a month in Britain alone, and Charles Chilton's BBC radio serial, *Journey into Space* was thought to have an audience of well over two million.

The 1950s witnessed the birth of the boom in science-fiction book publishing, with 30 London publishers turning out roughly 160,000 science fiction books each year.

The boom was followed, however, by a slump.

The 1970s were not particularly good years for science-fiction writing. American and English concerns seemed to diverge, with British writers like Ballard losing esteem in America, and Ballard himself dismissing Ameri-

can preoccupations with trying to recapture an outmoded American dream. The vast success of the film *Star Wars* did a great deal to boost the video-game industry and its own book spin-off (the paperback sold more than a million copies in England alone), but little for science fiction as a whole.

The question remains, however, whether the science fiction being written today is concerned with developing new perceptions, or whether it is merely reworking familiar themes. Did the 1950s and 1960s represent a glorious era whose innovations cannot be repeated?

To counter this view is a feeling, stoutly defended by most fans, that science fiction should be considered the authentic and enduring folk literature of the twentieth century. "We are now living in a world invented by science fiction,"

From the Centre of the Earth (Hutchinson, 1983) that Chinese join the Party for "recognition, status, power... cars, travel, and better housing."

In health alone, perhaps, the Chinese image remains unimpaired. Paul Lowinger, a San Francisco psychiatrist who visited China twice for a few weeks, once in 1975, and again four years later, and social psychologist Martha Livingston, are both "nursed on by China" (as they say), and write about its mental health in *The Minds of the Chinese People* (Prentice Hall, 1983).

Sheila Hillier, a sociologist at the London Hospital and at Barts, and J. A. Jewell, a London GP - both China specialists - would agree. They have investigated the Chinese health system on visits spanning the years of enthusiasm and disillusion, and they take a long view in their forthcoming *Health care and traditional medicine in China 1900-1982* (Routledge, September 1983). The People's Republic, they conclude, has provided and continues to provide comprehensive and thrifty health care for the masses.

Jonathan Mirsky

Bitter taste of reality



Maclaine

film star Shirley Maclaine had reacted differently about the People's Republic. "Serene, I said to myself, that's the word. Serene." "I saw China" books before Mao's death in 1976 usually breathed euphoria. Nowadays they spit bile.

What has precipitated this reverse?

Probably, and ironically, China's relatively greater openness since Mao's death. Earlier visitors, like Maclaine, David Rockefeller, and Felix Greene were shielded from the horrors of the Cultural Revolution by the lies of their guides. Now travellers are permitted somewhat more mobility and occasional informal contact. And the Chinese press has become more truthful.

Perhaps the greatest turnaround has been in the evaluation of the late Chairman Mao, a shift legitimized by the Communist Party's own 1981 Resolution on his "tragic errors" of the Cultural Revolution.

"China stalks." This was an American visitor's judgement last year, in *Harper's* magazine, on the world's oldest civilization.

Eight years before, film star Shirley Maclaine had reacted differently about the People's Republic. "Serene, I said to myself, that's the word. Serene." "I saw China" books before Mao's death in 1976 usually breathed euphoria. Nowadays they spit bile.

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Abortion threat



Mosher

Until recently information about China's peasantry - 80 per cent of the population - was scarce. Foreign academics were allowed brief "study trips" into the countryside, and journalists were lucky to get a day at a time on selected communes. Now Steven Mosher has written *Broken Earth: The rural Chinese* (available December Collier Macmillan), an account of his year (1979-80) in a southern village. Since leaving China three years ago, Mosher has been dismissed from Stanford's doctoral programme in anthropology for unspecified unprofessional conduct. Mosher contends that Stanford backed under threats from Peking to stop all American academic exchanges unless he was severely disciplined for revealing details of a compulsory abortion drive which he witnessed.

The abortion reports in his book are indeed vivid, but what is more striking is Mosher's picture of a

FINDINGS

A series reporting on research CHINA

tradition-bound peasantry and its self-serving officials. He saw his neighbours worshipping their ancestors and the gods, and burying the dead and getting married on auspicious days. As for their officials, "the Chinese I spoke with insisted that most cadres look out for their own interests first, last, and always."

Hidden hierarchy

China's seemingly universal equality overwhelmed observers in the wide-eyed period. Harvard economist J. K. Galbraith wrote in *China passage* (1983): "Somewhere in the recesses of Chinese policy there may be a privileged party and official hierarchy. Certainly it is the least ostentatious ruling class in history... clearly, there is very little difference between rich and poor." But the *New York Times* Fox Butterfield identified 24 bureaucratic grades each with its perks, a system never discussed in China, he said, "to help preserve the illusion of egalitarianism." Another veteran of Harvard studies, Richard Bernstein, who represented *Time* magazine in Peking in 1980 and 1981, asserts in

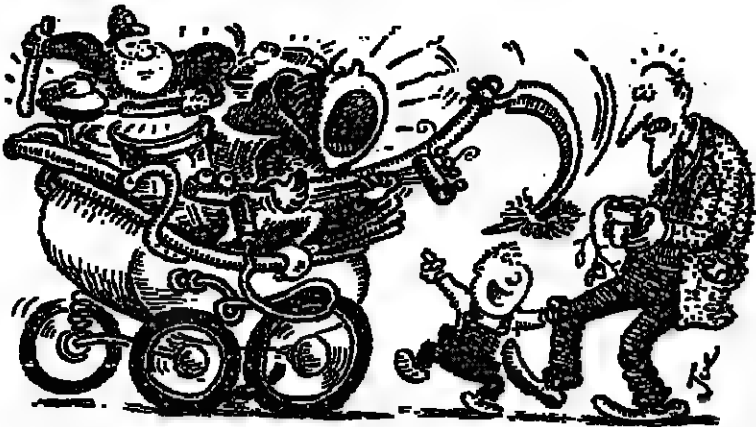
IS AGE A CRIME THAT MARTHA SHOULD BE IMPRISONED FOR?

Many old people like Martha are confined within their own four walls as effectively as if they were in a cell. Victims of infirmity and loneliness, without friends or family, many rely on day centres to maintain the all-important human contact. For some old people all over Britain, Day Centres represent a chance to escape the isolation of their homes and make new friends. But owing to a shortage of funds, some Centres cannot open every day of the week, and lack important facilities and equipment. Your help is urgently required to allow Centres to expand their capabilities. Any donation you can make will help another lonely old person rediscover the pleasures of human contact. Please send all donations now to: The Hon. Treasurer, the Rt. Hon. Lord Maybray-King, Help the Aged, Room 1003, FREEPOST 30, London W1E 7JZ. (No stamp needed)

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WEDNESDAY PAGE

ALAN FRANKS' DIARY



I had always been under the impression that you could log the fleeing of your youth by the increasingly fresh complexion of policemen. This may be true, but a far more accurate guideline is the galloping juniority of rock groups. I write with confidence, since the band booked to play at the summer street party has an average age of 12. They are called Kandi and the Cassettes, and not even my colleague Richard Williams has heard of them. Yet.

I sense disaster. Not even before chemistry O-level did I have such intimations of failure. The schism that has dogged every meeting of the organizing committee will be reflected faithfully by a fiasco on Saturday. Strange how catastrophe has a kind of scent. It infuses the air with tension, and seems to spook the children as though they were thoroughbred stallions before a prairie storm. If I weren't such a coward, I would boycott the occasion. After all, there is ample precedent in the Street Radical's snubbing of both the Jubilee and Royal Wedding festivities. On the second occasion his children actually sported tiny sandwich boards with the slogan, "Monarchy is a celebration of mediocrity". That may be true for all I know, but how terrible to foist such knowing phraseology on political innocents. Perhaps I should come up with an apt riposte. What about: "Street parties are a communal affirmation of autocracy"? No.

Reggae music is drifting across the street in broken measures. A woman's voice is riding high over the beat, wailing venomously: "De Queen she nothin' but a painted doll". But the voice does not belong to a Jamaican, nor, strictly speaking, to a woman. It comes from the larynx of Kandi, vocalist with the Cassettes and, so it is rumoured, winner of a scholarship to one of London's public schools for girls. She is scarcely pubescent, as sparrow-boned as Flaf in her decline, pale as a ghost, with black springs of Afro-permed hair. All round the garage walls are younger children, my own daughter included, mesmerized by the angular act of this gamine.

It had to happen; daughterly demand for "a proper guitar, with wire coming out of it". I offer the usual return of service: "I can't afford it" - and back comes the now customary snap-reply: "Then get some more money out of the wall." (A reference to the NatWest service till.)

Bobby Marshall "drops by", ostensibly to "laaise" about Saturday but really to do a Mary Whitehouse over the corruptive properties of Kandi and the Cassettes.

She "drops by" again, demanding access to the following: (a) full lyrics of the Cassettes' intended programme at the party; (b) name, address and occupation of Kandi's father; (c) a copy of the local authority music licence for Saturday. As if I should possess any of these. The trouble about such childless busy-bodies is that their caring instincts invariably manifest themselves in blanket censorship. My inner voice suggests she take an acid bath at her earliest convenience, but my outer one refers her to Parvis Maitland. A worse fate by far.

The party is upon us; so too is the world and its wife (by which I mean the Matlands, the Petranellas, the Street Radicals) and its token pensioners, the cats Fidel and Raoul. Morgan Prewitt is of course in attendance, being bribed by his mother into near-tranquillity with a stream of confectionery. If he is quiet, that is only because he is seeking out the most strategic spot at which to throw a Morgasm. Even Caetano the window-smearer and Magnus the roof-burner have turned up - touting for trade I suppose. Kandi, quite repressing the classical scholar within her, is singing: "Gonna take me pistol to de palace". Someone is fiddling with the jackpots in the pre-amp. It is Bobby Marshall, trying to disconnect the band for the good of the community. My son at once slaps in a party bid for "a proper guitar with wires coming out of it". Suddenly it seems so much more effective than conventional arms.

'A woman's place is in the House'

People in their early forties are, nowadays, very fashionable, politically speaking. So it was a chic move on the part of Mrs Thatcher (58 tomorrow) to appoint Emma Nicholson, at "forty-one and eleven twelfths", a smidgin younger than party chairman, John Gummer, as vice-chairman in charge of women.

Emma Nicholson is the daughter of Sir Godfrey Nicholson, a former Tory MP, and a grand-daughter of an earl. One of her sisters is married to a Foreign Office minister, Richard Luce, and another to Sir John Montgomery Cuninghame. Emma wears Jaeger-ish clothes and lives in a pretty cluttered Belgravia mews house. So far, so identical to Tory Lady. She departs from the stereotype in that she was one of the first women in the country to work in computer technology and in always, unswervingly, putting her career first.

"When I first started work, I found that none of the men I met was at all interested in my job. If I'd had a broader variety of friends then, perhaps, I would have met men who weren't so dismissive, but I didn't. I couldn't fit myself into the sunnyside that was all that seemed to be offered to me. I felt that I wanted to learn more."

"So I had to give up the idea of marriage although, obviously, I'm very sorry not to have had children."

Here is the task. Prepare a dish for eight based on two young guinea fowl weighing just over a kilo each. Three garnishes - not in the spring-of-parsley sense, but the classic French cuisine meaning of formal assemblages of accompanying vegetables and the like - are mandatory. Truffles and caviar are the only forbidden ingredients, but nothing may be prepared or cooked in advance of the four hours allotted for the job.

Ah yes. Your efforts must be set out on a silvered dish of vast expanse and placed before six judges, among them chefs of long experience and distinction. Then, when its presentation has been noted, the dish will be tasted and the balance of its flavours, textures and seasoning savoured or suffered.

Nine ambitious young chefs from hotels and restaurants up and down the country exercised their skills within these limits at the Dorchester in London last week. The occasion was a quarter-final of the Prix Taittinger, and it produced two semi-finalists, Herbert Berger of the Connaught Hotel, and Arthur Bukalo of the Indigo Jones restaurant in London, who will take on the competition from all over Europe in Paris later this month.

It was a marvellous day to be given fly-on-the-wall licence to watch the cooking, the judging and all the backstage bustle. The recipe,

As compensation, I have always worked terribly hard at friendships.

Graduating from the Royal Academy of Music with not quite enough talent to become a professional musician, she decided that the new field of computer technology sounded challenging. Vocational guidance experts told her that computer companies were unlikely to hire a music graduate who'd given up mathematics for ever at the age of eight. "I was so angry, I looked up 'computers' in the telephone directory and persuaded ICL to give me a test." She passed and began a tough training that became easier once she discovered similarities between music and computing and worked through problems "by applying fugal analysis."

Five years ago, she joined the Save the Children Fund to help with forward planning and is now Director of Fund Raising - "a more elegant term for chief professional beggar."

As an MP's daughter, she opted into politics early. "I have always seen it as the thing that mattered in achieving change for other people and the way to get a wrong put right." In 1979, she contested the Labour stronghold of Blyth in Northumberland, the first woman to do so. She lost the fight but won the highest ever Conservative vote.



Emma Nicholson: down the pits for votes

She sees her present political role as "a kind of constituency task, the 'constituency' being women's votes. I want to make the Conservative Party the natural one for women to join."

I said that this Government has been blamed for making women's

lives more difficult. Cuts in the social services, nursery provision and care for the elderly and a back to the kitchen sink philosophy hardly made the Conservative Party the women's one.

Emma Nicholson said that she didn't expect her job to be easy. "If

you want a soft life, you wouldn't choose to go into politics. It was tough getting the miners' vote in Blyth. But I went down the mines and came up with some of their votes. This is not a marshmallow exercise."

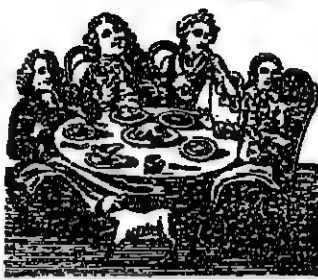
What's needed, she feels, are more women candidates but the problem is the average woman's impossibly stretched timetable. "They're either so busy working their way up the career path or bringing up children or both that they don't have enough mental space to be as involved in politics as I should like them to be."

"Anyone who sits around whining because a woman isn't in a particular position doesn't understand the meaning of the Sex Discrimination Act. Until we get parity in the number of people who apply for jobs, we can't complain about unequal selection. The way to get more women in Parliament is to give selection committees the widest possible choice of candidates."

Well, yes, of course. But selection committees have been offered Emma Nicholson, a woman of intelligence, enthusiasm and an aptitude for hard work. Had she been a man, did she think that by now, she might have been selected for a winnable seat? "Oh yes", she said. "There are no two ways about that."

Penny Perrick

THE TIMES COOK



Shona Crawford Poole

which follows cannot be attributed to one or several of the chefs whose work was so very enjoyable. Too few of us have access to fresh foie gras for Herbert Berger's puff pastry parcels of breast of guinea fowl with foie gras and sautéed cabbage to be a practical proposition. But the idea is so attractive, and so easily adapted to pheasant and other game birds, or even chicken, that I have done just that - adapted it.

Whether you make one guinea fowl feed two or four people will depend on how much additional stuffing goes into each parcel and the other constituents of the meal as well as the size of the birds themselves.

Breast of guinea fowl in puff pastry

Serves four

1 or 2 guinea fowl, about 1kg (2lb 3oz) each

Onion, carrot, celery and bouquet garni for stock

225g (8oz) chicken or duck livers

300ml (1/2 pint) milk

110g (4oz) clarified or fresh butter

Salt and freshly ground black pepper

2 tablespoons port

1 tablespoon cognac

1 shallot or small onion, finely chopped

225g (8oz) fresh mushrooms, chame- relles, ceps or large buttons

450g (1lb) puff pastry, homemade or bought

1 egg yolk

For the sauce

1 pint lightly seasoned guinea fowl or chicken stock

2 tablespoons port

150ml (1/4 pint) double cream

Salt and freshly ground black pepper

Cut the legs off the guinea fowl and use them either for stock or for another dish. Carefully cut the breast meat in one piece from each side, removing the skin and cutting away the white sinew. Set it aside.

Chop the carcass and put it in a large pot with the vegetables and bouquet garni. Cover with water, bring to the boil, skim, season lightly

and simmer for an hour or more.

Carefully pick over the chicken or duck livers (chicken livers is another possibility in the absence of foie gras) removing all the stringy bits and any patches of greenish or yellow staining. Cover the livers with milk and leave them to soak for at least an hour, or for several in the refrigerator if you have time. Soaking in milk softens the flavour of the livers and draws out some blood, making them paler too.

Heat about two tablespoons of the clarified butter in a heavy frying or sauté pan and add the lightly seasoned breast meat. Cook it gently and lightly without allowing it to brown. Remove it as soon as you judge it is cooked but still a little pink in the middle. Set it aside to cool.

Dry the livers well. Add a little more butter to the pan and sauté them briefly, without browning, until they are firm enough to slice. Remove them from the pan and pour off the fat. Add the brandy and port to the pan, stir briefly to dissolve the meat juices and quickly pour off and keep the liquid.

Wipe the pan clean and heat the remaining butter. Fry the shallot or onion until it is tender but not browned. Slice the mushrooms quite thickly and add them to the pan. Cook and season them lightly, drain and set them aside to cool.

Carve the cooked guinea fowl across the grain into neat slices. Slice

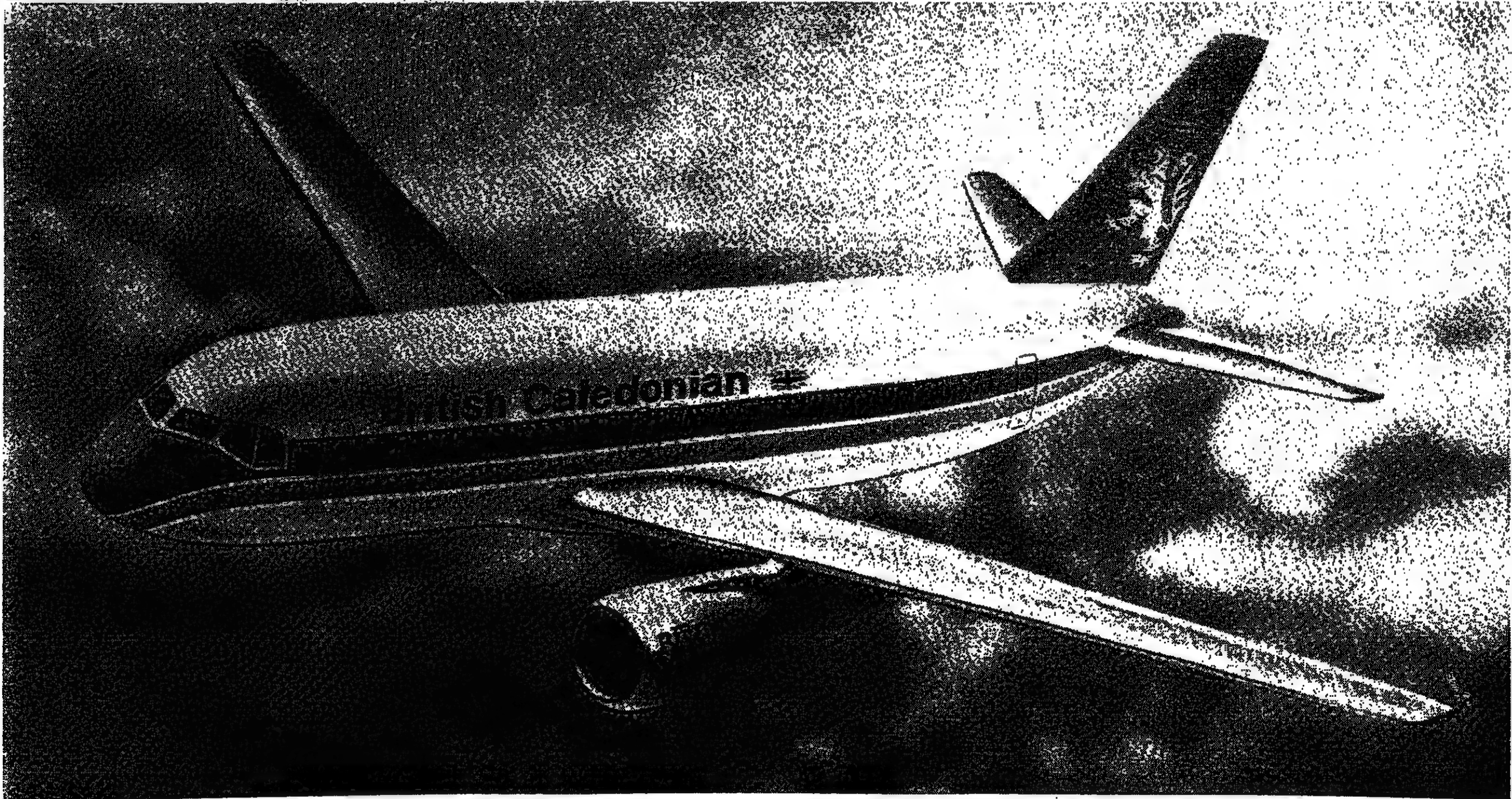
the livers too into pieces of about the same thickness. Place slices of liver between slices of meat to make up groups of slices in the shape of the original breast meat.

Roll out the puff pastry very thinly. Cut four pieces of pastry the same tear-shape and size the meat filling. Cut another four pieces the same shape but about 2.5cm (1in) bigger all round.

Divide the mushroom mixture between the four larger pieces of pastry, placing it in a heap in the centre. Now arrange the sliced meat and liver on top. Moisten it with a little of the fortified pan juices. Turn in the edges of the pastry loosely over the filling. Dampen the exposed edges and top with a smaller piece of pastry. Form each of the packets in the same way, then invert them on to a dampened baking sheet so that the joints are out of sight underneath. Decorate with pastry trimmings and chill them for at least half an hour before baking.

Just before baking them paint the tops with a glaze of egg yolk mixed with a tablespoon of water and bake in a preheated hot oven (230°C/425°F, gas mark 7) for about 20 minutes, or until puffed and golden.

Serve immediately with a sauce made by reducing the strained stock to about 150ml (1/4 pint), adding the port and cream, and reducing and seasoning the mixture to taste.



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British Caledonian, Airline of the Year, demonstrates what it takes to be a winner. In choosing the all-new A320 for their long-term fleet development, they express a vote of confidence in its ability to fulfil all the criteria of modern airline management. Underlining the superiority of the aircraft

which will lead air travel into a whole new era.

A private, independent company, B. Cal. has been able to make an unbiased commercial judgement based purely on economic and technical requirements. Part of this judgement is to

maximise profitability through extending the use of their current short-haul aircraft in anticipation of delivery of brand new European technology towards the end of the decade. Saving now to buy better, later.

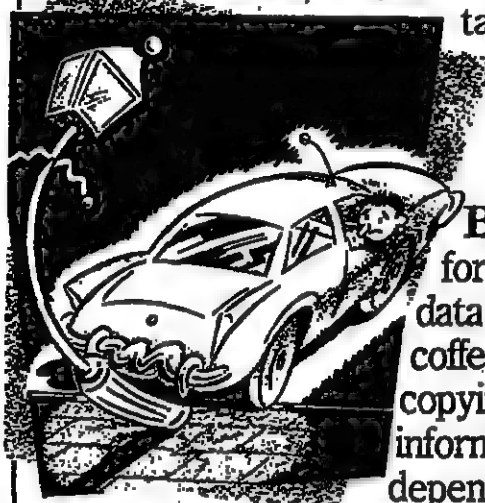
Airbus salutes the Airline of the Year.

 **Airbus**

If you thought a ram was only of interest to sheep, read on.

A.

ASCII: Pronounced 'Askey', it stands for American Standard Code for Information Interchange. This international code lays down the binary numbers (0s and 1s) which represent each letter, symbol or number that you can type into a computer. Without ASCII, computers wouldn't be able to talk to each other.



B.

Back-up: The procedure for making copies of vital data in case of fire, flood or coffee damage. Systematic copying and secure storage of information is vital—business depends on it.

BASIC: A computer language conceived to make life easier for novice computer programmers. It stands for Beginners All-purpose Symbolic Instruction Code. BASIC has gone on to become the most widely used programming language for microcomputers.

Binary: Computers use a rather similar code to Morse, which has dots and dashes. Some people might actually call it 'a binary asynchronous communications protocol'. But to put it simply binary means two—just two bits of code are used, just like dots and dashes.

Bit: Having grasped the complex mathematics of 'binary' you'll wonder what to call a 'dot' or a 'dash'. It's simple enough—bit.

Buffer: The place in a computer's memory where you put data before processing it.



Bug: A program error. Coined by early computniks who found that insects played havoc with the workings of their huge machines.

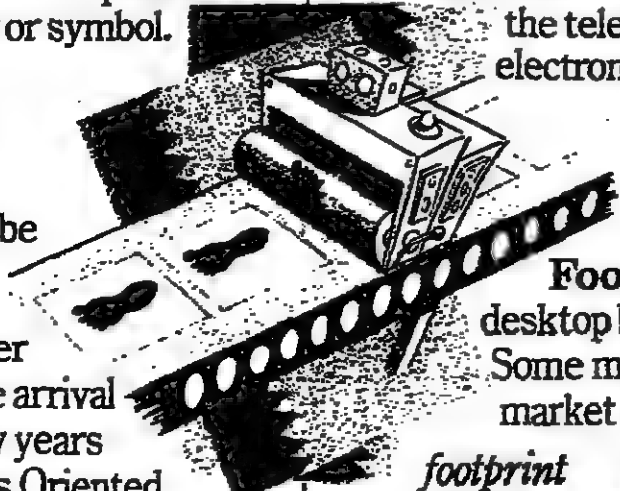
Byte: Short for 'by eight', normally a group of eight bits which contains enough information to represent an ASCII number, letter or symbol.

C.

Character: Any symbol that can be displayed on a computer.

COBOL: The grandad of computer languages and widely used until the arrival of microcomputers *en masse* a few years ago. COBOL, or Common Business Oriented Language, is used by most mainframe and mini-computers. It's been criticised for being too cumbersome (no computer language pleases everyone) but some micros now run it.

Command Driven: A software package controlled by special command words keyed in by the user. Not for novices, who work better with menu driven programs.



F.

Footprint: The space taken up on a desktop by a microcomputer or terminal. Some machines currently on the market have rather big feet.

G.H.

GIGO: Garbage In, Garbage Out. All too often computer errors are not the machine's fault but the operator's.

Hardware: The mechanical, electronic and plastic bits and pieces of a computer.



garbage

CPU: The Central Processing Unit is the heart of any computer. It controls the other units and applies arithmetic and logic to the data fed in.

Cursor: When typing onto a computer screen you need a way of seeing where you are. The cursor tells you where the next thing you type will appear or indicates characters you wish to delete or move.

D.

Daisy Wheel Printer: Produces high-quality typing. The printing head resembles a daisy, with preformed characters at the end of spokes. The Merlin printer produces up to 700 words a minute in a variety of typefaces.



daisy wheel

Data Management: For business micros. Allows users to maintain files of information either as a simple electronic card index, or as a more exotic enquiry system, able to extract facts and figures and print them out as reports.

Disk: Computer memory is expensive, disks are cheap. A computer can make magnetic marks on a \$5 disk and can store 100,000 words. To keep the same amount inside the computer, you'd need a memory costing the best part of £1,000. Disks are also small and light: a 5 inch disk can be sent by post.

Dot Matrix Printer: One of the ways of printing out results from your computer. A dot matrix printer has a battery of pins which create characters from a pattern of dots.

E.

Eight-Bit or Sixteen-Bit: The computer industry's answer to 'horsepower'. You don't need to know how many bits a computer has. What matters is 'can it do the accounts?' and 'how many people can use it at the same time?'

Electronic Mail: Services such as Telecom Gold which allow computer terminals to dial up over the telephone network to consult personal electronic mailboxes.

Input/Output (I/O): Input is the information fed into a computer. Output is the information produced by the computer.

Interactive: Computers operate on information in different ways. They may be programmed to store up data and programs and to work on them at a given time: this is batch processing. Or they may be required to respond at once—interactive computing. All microcomputers are interactive.

IPSS: International Packet Switched Service. British Telecom's international computer data transmission service.

K.L.

K: Literally, a thousand. In the computer world there are actually 1024 bytes in a K or Kilobyte (not many people know this—not many people need to).

Language: The native language of a computer is the morse code of the binary system, but writing programs in binary is far too cumbersome and long-winded. So, computers have high level languages like BASIC and COBOL which are more like English and describe the work we want to do.

Programs are written in these languages and then translated into binary or machine codes.



language

M.

Memory: A measure of the power of a computer is its memory capacity. A typical £100 home computer holds about 1,000 characters in its memory—barely enough for a letter.

Something like Merlin's office microsystem (with space for nearly 250,000 characters) can hold a couple of sequels to The Winds of War, and let the accountant run his payroll program at the same time.

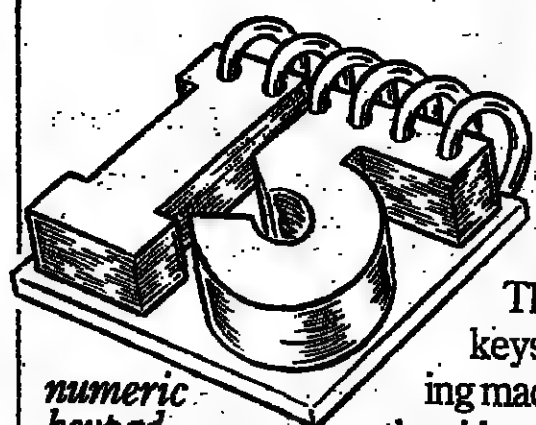
Menu: To make life easier, many programs ask the operator what he wants to do. They present alternatives—a menu. The MerlinMaster menu program, a feature of the M2200 series, presents you with a list of alternatives. In plain English.

Microspace Justification: A feature of better quality printers that allows printing to look as good as typeset text, with words stretched evenly across the full width of the column.

Modem: Short for modulator/demodulator. It enables you to attach your computer to a telephone line, translating computer signals into those used by the telephone network.

Merlin is the biggest supplier of modems in the country.

Multi-user: Merlin's M2235 microcomputer is powerful enough to support the work of more than one terminal at a time.



numeric keypad

N.

Numeric Keypad:

The layout of numeric keys borrowed from adding machines and added to the side of modern computer-keyboards. Allows rapid input of figures, given the right fingertips.

O.R.

Operating System: The operating system keeps track of all those bits and bytes. It tells your machine how to start working and how to interpret any instructions you give it.

Peek: The command you give the computer to move information out of its memory.

Peripherals: The printers, disk drives, keyboards and so on which enable information and programs to be fed in and out of a computer.

Poke: The command you give the computer to move information into its memory.

Port: Point inside a computer where a connection can be made between its processor and peripherals outside the machine.



poke

Q.R.

Qwerty: The classic typewriter keyboard is known by the six letters on the top left hand keys: QWERTY.

RAM: For a computer to work, it has to run a program which has to be inside the computer. It probably takes about 10,000 code words, and they are fed, one at a time, to the central code processor, which the computer is best left to do by itself (it can read its own memory circuits the way you can read a newspaper story).

It can read any memory circuit it likes, at random. That's why it's called 'Random Access' Memory. However, it isn't random. It's fast, direct access. (See ROM).

Report Generator: A program designed to let you select and lay out information that has been produced by the computer.

ROM: Coded information stored in computer memory just evaporates when the computer is switched off. But computers need to be told what to do next time they're turned on. This information is stored in wires. Very fine wires. 100,000 on each chip. The computer can read the codes, but it can't change them. They're called Read-Only Memory - ROM.

RS232: An electrical standard devised for 25-pin plugs and sockets used to link up computers with printers, plotters, modems, and each other.

S.

Serial: When bits are transmitted in a stream down a single wire they're serially transmitted. A parallel bit stream involves sending bits over a number of wires simultaneously.

Software: Refers to all programs which are run on computer hardware. Some software is fed in on tapes and disks, some remains stored permanently on the computer's memory.

There are two types of software; applications software does the work and systems software keeps the computer in line.

Spreadsheet: Financial planning aid that's a clever computerisation of the sheet of paper, pencil, calculator, and rubber.

The first low-cost spreadsheet was introduced in 1978, and was important in making microcomputers respectable tools for today's business.

T.

Teletext: Television based system that displays publicly broadcast information.



software

Telex: The national and international text communication network. Merlin is the biggest supplier of micro-processor based telex terminals in the UK. Both the Merlin M2200 series computers and M3300 word processor can be linked to the telex network.

U.

User Friendly: A claim made by software sellers. Often promised, seldom delivered.

V.

Viewdata: System developed by British Telecom for sending computer data by telephone line for display on low-cost modified television sets and other terminals.

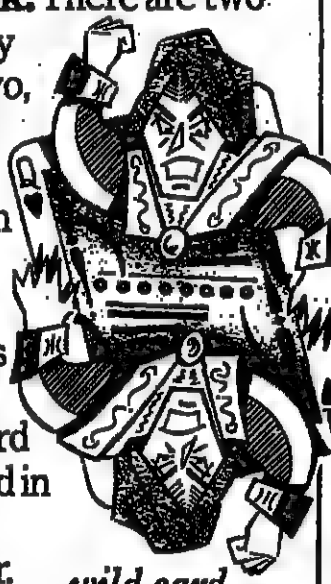
VDU: Visual Display Unit is jargon for the screen attached to your computer.

W.

Wild Card: Facility to allow you to find the information you want when you're not quite sure what you're looking for. Asking for Jock might produce records with Jock and Jockstrap, as well as Joke.

Winchester Disk: There are two types of disk, floppy and hard. Of the two, the hard disk in its sealed container is able to hold much more information which is loaded in to it from cassettes or tapes.

A compact hard disk unit often found in microcomputers is called a Winchester.



wild card

Z.

Zap: When you correct a fault inside the computer's memory by altering its signals you 'Zap' it.

Addenda

Some new or rarely used words, not in everyday use.

Advice If you want to ask an expert about some aspect of a Merlin computer before or after you've bought one, dial 100 and ask for Freefone Merlin.

After Sales Service Many computers have to be looked after by a dealer. He may have to look after lots of makes. Merlin, on the other hand, employs specialists, experts and engineers who handle only Merlin equipment.

Training Courses Merlin have courses to suit all types of business. They range from a half-day introduction to a complete week's training.

Reassurance Will the company you buy your computer from still be in business next year?

Or call us.

Why is it that computer people always talk so that only other computer people can understand them?

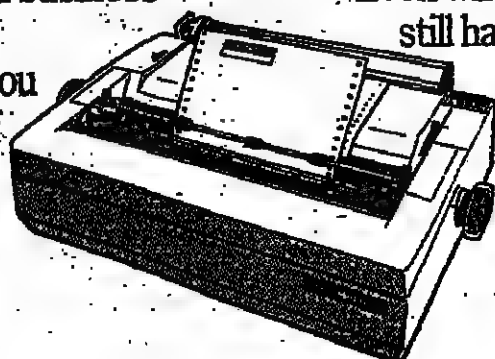
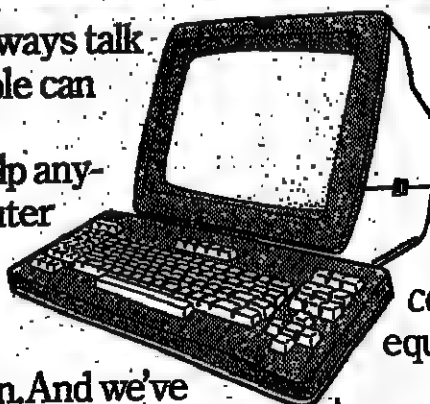
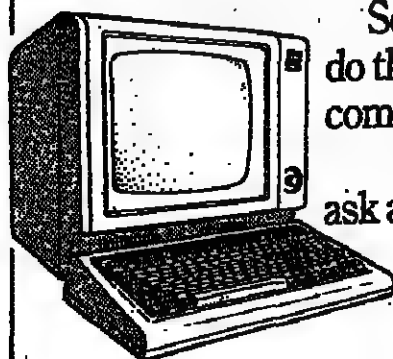
They don't seem keen to help anyone who wants a desk-top computer for their business but hasn't taken a degree in programming.

Merlin is different.

We're British Telecom Merlin. And we've been adapting high technology to the needs of the businessman all our life.

So it was only natural that we'd do the same with small business computers.

Which is why, if you ask about our range of desk-top com-



puters and word processors we'll tell you all about them in a language you'll understand.

English.

Needless to say you'll encounter some jargon. But we'll explain as we go along.

We also don't expect your staff to be as dedicated to a dedicated word processor as we are. Which is why we have a comprehensive series of training courses so that they can make the most of the equipment you buy.

What's the use of paying £3,000 for some hardware (there we go with the jargon again, but we reckon you'll know this one) when you can only use £1,500 worth?

Even when your equipment is installed, you may still have a few teething problems operating the programs you've chosen.

A mental block. You've mislaid the manual or pressed the wrong key.

In that case all you have to do is ring your local Merlin office, and one of our experts will help you solve your problem.

That expert will have exactly the same equipment as you, loaded with exactly the same software. So he or she can duplicate exactly where you got stuck. And tell you how to put it right.

If you're interested in talking to one of our people about your computer needs, it's simple. Just dial 100 and ask for Freefone Merlin.

If you want to be more complicated you can always fill in the coupon.

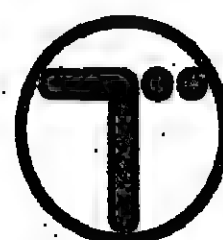
Please send me information about your word processors and desk-top computers.

To: Victor Brand, Merlin, FREEPOST London SW19 8BR

Name _____

Address _____

Tel. No. _____



Merlin

British Telecom Business Systems

Someone had to make it simpler.

THE TIMES DIARY

Parkinson show

Contrary to the belief of amused Conservative delegates in Blackpool yesterday, the light aircraft trailing the banner "Don't sack Cecil" over the conference centre was not hired by the beleaguered Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, The Cessna 125, which flew for an hour over the area, was piloted by the eccentric Brian Bateson, the local man responsible for flying the message. The Kremlin sends congratulations over the heads of the Greenham Common women earlier this year. Bateson, aged 43, director and chief flying instructor of Blackpool and Fylde Aeroclub, said: "Mr Parkinson needs support and it was about time someone did something about it."

Rum do

The annual public relations razzamatazz surrounding today's launch of the Lamb's Navy Rum calendar has suffered an inauspicious start. Poor David Bailey, who sweated around the French Polynesian island of Bora-Bora for several weeks taking photographs of dusky maidens, complained yesterday of the "stalest" design of the invitations. Printed on an 18in long strip of 35mm transparency and delivered in a plastic film tub, they depict various under-dressed ladies accompanied by the caption "A personal invitation for you to get close up to the first exposure of the new 84...". etc. "They're ghastly. I'd absolutely nothing to do with me or Lamb's", stormed Bailey.

Sentimental agent

The new Sean Connery movie was premiered in Hollywood the other evening. It is not that most awaited 1960s revival, his return as James Bond in *Never Say Never*, for which he received a reported \$3m, but a short film on his home town of Edinburgh, for which he received no fee at all. However, he does reprise Bond's footsteps by going up the steps of Fettes College, the Eton of the north and the alma mater chosen by Ian Fleming for his unshaken and seldom stirred hero. Connery himself had a more modest education elsewhere in Edinburgh before graduating to the horse and car of the dairy in Fountainbridge.

Slow starter

Is the youthful-looking Bamber Gascoigne's comfortable reign as chairman of Granada's *University Challenge* coming to an end? The future of the programme, in its 21st year, is threatened by the decision of London Weekend Television not to include the new series in its schedules when it begins on October 23. LWT says it no longer has the air time to give the quiz a regular slot. Likewise Thames Television has decided not to displace another network programme to place it. So Londoners will no longer witness Gascoigne (Eton and Magdalene College, Cambridge Scholar), aged 48, calling for starters for 10. Granada's programme controller, Michael Scott, said LWT's decision is sad and will probably have a knock-on effect. But no one need worry about Gascoigne, who has many writing and publishing interests.

BARRY FANTONI



"But will he still be able to use his pass?"

Change of tone

Stanley Black may have misunderstood the arts for the proletariat policy of the Greater London Council when he arrived to conduct the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra in the body plant canteen at Ford's Dagenham works yesterday. The concert was part of lefty GLC arts chairman Tony Banks's scheme to encourage performers to take themselves out of the better known cultural centres and provide intellectual refreshment for the workers. On arrival at Ford's desert in the midst of industrial Essex, Black asked a bemused official: "Where's my room?"



We all know Norman Fowler is under siege over health and social security cuts. But did he have to bring in the Army? Dr John Spackman, aged 51, is to be the new director of operational strategy in the DHSS on a £31,000-a-year salary. His current job, with the tank of brigadier, is running the computers in the Army's supply system, and he is said to have many years' experience in controlling large high technology projects in the MoD and Nato. Perhaps Norman is planning to make the Treasury.

PHS

Jobless: Prior's grim forecast

Prior: I think one of the extraordinary things about my position is that I have been regarded by the Conservative Party ever since 1974 as a person who was seeking a compromise and a way of uniting people, whether it be trade unionists or whoever, and I presume that that was one of the reasons why in the end I was sent to Northern Ireland. There may have been other reasons as well, but that was one of them. And yet I suppose I have been the subject of almost more controversy in the views that I held than any other leading politician in the party.

I sometimes think my opponents can't have it both ways. They can't say to me, "You're a compromiser" on the one hand and then on the other hand, "You are always leading revolts against the leadership". The fact of the matter is that those who have tended to take my point of view - the so-called wets, if one has to give them a name - haven't perhaps given as much credit to the supply-siders as the dries have deserved for what they have accomplished.

And I don't think the dries have given much credit to the wets both for what they have sought to achieve in retaining those values of compassion and understanding which have always been a part of the Conservative Party. And also our desire to accept a large degree of radical reform. I don't think we do ourselves any good by continuing the argument in the barren way that it has been conducted in the past few years.

But are the main arguments about the fundamental nature and logic of the Government's economic policy over?

Prior: I think there is far less argument about that now than there was. I don't see nowadays the constant reiteration of money supply being the only thing that matters that one saw five, six, seven years ago. I don't see the constant reiteration that supply side economics can put everything right that I did a few years ago. On the other hand, I have to say that on my side of the party there is a much greater realization that there are limitations on the amount of money that one can actually pump in.

Are you optimistic or pessimistic about the economy now?

Prior: I am certainly more optimistic than I was. I think the recovery has been patchy and I am still deeply worried about the level of unemployment, but certainly I think that there is a much greater realization in management and on the shop floor about what we have to do. I see no reason why we shouldn't achieve reasonable levels of growth, and I am glad that interest rates have come down, and I am glad that the pound has fallen in value.

Government economic policy has again been attacked by a number of senior Conservatives, among them John Biffen, Leader of the House, and Francis Pym, former Foreign Secretary. In the last Parliament, one of the Government's most persistent critics from within its own ranks was James Prior, Employment Secretary until becoming Secretary for Northern Ireland. Yet he has remained on the Cabinet's key "E" Committee, which formulates economic policy. In an interview with George Brock and Nicholas Wapshott, he began by explaining his sometimes awkward position in the Conservative Party.

Looking back over the years, I think one of my difficulties with the policy as it was originally enunciated was the high interest rate, high exchange rate policy. I think that the policy which we have pursued for the past few years has been very reasonable. I think that the relations have helped stimulate in a sensible way while at the same time keeping a tight control over public borrowing.

I have always been an optimist. But I don't think that the world is going to get back into the massive growth rates of the fifties and sixties and we do have to face up to the fact that as an old country we have become uncompetitive in many aspects. We are facing the full flood of competition from the labour market-oriented economies of the Far East and we face the problems of technology. I don't believe that simply pumping money into the economy at the rate the Labour Party suggests as a means of reducing unemployment would work. I don't think that even Keynes would be favouring a massive increase in public expenditure.

Therefore I think we have to recognize that unemployment as measured in a conventional sense is going to remain high in Western society and therefore you have to be thinking the whole time of new ways of seeking to tackle the problems of unemployment and new ways of presenting the fact.

How long do you expect the present high levels of unemployment will last?

Prior: I have to say that for the whole of this decade we are going to be faced with a very difficult unemployment problem and I don't believe we are going to be able to solve the problem by simply, on the one hand pumping in vast sums of money, or on the other relying on the economy through changes on the supply side to bring about a transformation.

We shall have to do very well over the next few years to decrease unemployment by the methods which have proved successful in the past and I think that we have got to think of new ways of doing so. I don't think that we should be ashamed of saying what the debate is about, but one shouldn't put it in such a way that one is being callous about it.

Do you think that the Government has appeared too hard-hearted?

Prior: I think that it would be unfair to suggest that the Government is hard-hearted. There are elements in the Conservative Party who regard some of us as softies and that they are the only ones who are prepared to accept the hard arguments. I am quite prepared to put across very hard arguments and talk very toughly on things like wage increases and the need for greater efficiency and so on.

Yet at the same time I recognize that there are vast numbers of people in Britain who are intensely patriotic and proud of what they are doing but don't actually aspire to greatness in society, they just want to go about their ordinary daily task and live with their families in reasonable conditions. They have just as much dignity and deserve just as much respect as those who are able to be the front-runners in society.

Sometimes I think that we tend, for reasons of economics or because of our backgrounds, to think that everyone has got to be tremendously efficient and tremendously able and



enterprising and so on. That isn't what society is made up of. I can play a part in putting forward our policies in a sensible, reasonable, understanding way. Sometimes we don't always do so.

If the Government does not deliberately soften its image, will it not be vulnerable to David Owen and the SDP?

Prior: I think that Dr Owen's tactics may be the correct ones for him, which makes it even more important that people like myself should be seen to be playing a major part in the Conservative Party, not shirking the difficult decisions but seeking to explain them and showing the compassionate side. Compassion is a word that I am in no way ashamed of using.

I have represented a predominantly working class constituency all my time in Parliament and I could never have been elected unless vast numbers of very decent, ordinary working class people had not voted me in. Now, they don't resent the fact that I had a public school education. They don't resent the fact that I am a member of Bupa or what have you. They know all these things. They know I live in a bigger house than most of them and that I have a farm. They still vote for me. I sometimes wonder why, but they still vote for me.

Are you not open to charges of disloyalty to the Prime Minister to open up a wider debate about unemployment and the economy?

Prior: I don't think I have said anything on this subject in this interview which has been in any way disloyal to the Prime Minister. Therefore, if I can say what I have just said without it in any way being disloyal to the Prime Minister, I don't see why there shouldn't be a very considerable debate on it. I think it could achieve a great deal for us.

We have to understand on my side of the party the necessity for pretty tough measures and I think the other side of the party has to understand that if those measures are going to succeed and you are going to build a decent society then you not only have to explain what you are doing but you have to help in every way that you can. It's something we ought to be able to do in a second period of government.

It has been said that you are bored with your job as Ulster Secretary and would like another job. Is that not true?

Prior: No, it's totally untrue. If I were bored by the job I certainly wouldn't have told Mrs Thatcher that I was keen to go back after the election. I was extremely keen to go back, because I felt that I had started something in the Assembly, albeit something that was going to take time, and I wished to go back in a position where the Secretary of State didn't have to begin all over again.

Bernard Levin: the way we live now



Ray Buckton, shunted in to stage-manage the purchase of a theatre on the rocks

Enter left, brandishing rulebook

You will hardly believe this - I found it difficult to credit myself - but, not content with the newspaper and the bank that they intend to found and run (both of which wonderfully lunatic projects I have recently discussed here), the trade unions are now proposing to buy and manage a theatre.

The theatre is the Mermaid, which is unfortunately now for sale after falling into financial difficulties. Mr Abdul Shamji and his firm, Gomba, had made a bid for it, but the union consortium (Municipal and Boleyns, TGVU, Nalco and Nupps) has now entered the auction, and may yet snatch the prize from beneath Mr Shamji's nose, particularly if they can get their bank founded in time to advance the cash for the purchase; the question of arranging for favourable reviews of the plays in the TUC's newspaper can presumably wait for a bit, but the money might be a little shy if they approached ordinary sources of finance, if only because those in the business of advancing risk capital have probably noticed that most of our union leaders cannot run a bank, never mind a newspaper or a bank, and Mr Ray Buckton, who is apparently in charge of the project, has not hitherto been known as an expert either on drama itself or the successful business management of playhouses and productions, or on anything else much, for that matter. So Messrs Codron and White, Hall and Nunn are probably not contemplating suicide at the thought of the new competition putting them out of business, and anyone who has read Hall's recently published *Diaries* will recall the effects of union action in his case, which was to bring the National Theatre to the very edge of closure and ruin and persuade Hall to vote Conservative for the first time in his life.

There is something wonderfully touching in the dotiness of this recent passion among the unions for venturing into areas of enterprise which require huge sums of money (and enormous reserves of specialized skills, none of which they have) and which they are, indeed, one or two are not far from insolvency - and this state of affairs is almost certainly about to become, abruptly, much worse, following the ruling that the sums advanced for the building of the new Labour Party headquarters should not have come from the unions' general funds. Part of the unions' money troubles can be attributed to the fact that unemployed members do not pay much in the way of subscriptions, and a general falling-off in the rate of recruitment has added to the decline in income, but most of the difficulty comes from good, old-fashioned incompetence, reflected in the appallingly high proportion of union funds that goes on administration - or bureaucracy, as the unions call it when they are attacking the government. Indeed, we have just seen a striking demonstration of the critical financial situation among the unions in the news that some of them - by no means all obscure or small ones - have been obliged, for the first time, to reduce the number of votes they buy at the Labour Party conference (they get exactly as many as they pay for - it is called an "affiliation fee" - and the numbers affiliated have traditionally borne little resemblance to the numbers of those eligible to be affiliated).

And this is the movement that wants to run a newspaper, a bank and a theatre! For all I know, plans are already well advanced for the TUC to go into all sorts of other businesses - a chain of men's outfitters, say (foot-wide lapels guaranteed), or of grocery shops (no Chilean coffee sold), or a travel agency ("See the nightclubs of Moscow and the steel mills of East Germany - One-way tickets at fantastic discounts").

But a theatre? A theatre? Let us try to envisage the scene, literally as well as figuratively.

First of all, the name will have to go; Mermaid is far too frivolous, and there would certainly be complaints that it is sexist as well. The name of the union playhouse should reflect

its ownership, its aims and the kind of thing to be found on its boards. How about *The Proletariat*? (I can see the advertising campaign already: "What's on at The Proletariat tonight, darling?") Or, if a more human touch is thought desirable, what about *The Len Murray*? Some of the possibilities are fully interchangeable with names that I helpfully proposed for the TUC's newspaper - *The Reference Book*, for instance, or *The Composite Resolution*; other ideas can be sought in the history of thirteenth-century movements, such as *The Peterloo Massacre*, *The Tolpuddle Martyrs* or *The Forty-Hour Week* (some of these sound more like pubs than theatres, I admit, but that might not be a bad thing as far as enticing the customers is concerned).

Then there is the question of repertoire. Here I have to offer the new management a word of warning: if they imagine that all those earnest left-wing playwrights - Griffiths, Edgar, Hare, Brenton, Barker - are going to rush forward with their plays, proud to have them put on at The Death to Blacklegs, they are right, but if they think that the earnest left-wing playwrights in question, seized by comradely feelings, are going to waive their royalties, I fear that disappointment may soon be felt backstage at The Flying Picket.

Even plays which are out of copyright, and on which therefore no royalties are payable, will pose problems. Shakespeare will be banned for a start: his attitude to the working-class, particularly in *Julius Caesar*, *Henry VI, Part II* and *Coriolanus*, is lamentably reactionary, and if the TUC Foldersols should mount a production of *Hamlet* they will have to cut Act V, Scene I, or risk having the place picketed by the Gravediggers' Union, understandably affronted by

What things we have seen Done at the Mermaid! heard words that have been So nimble, and so full of subtle flame, As if that every one from whence Had meant to put his whole wit in And had resolv'd to live a fool, the rest, Of his dull life.

6 If they think that all those earnest left-wing playwrights, seized by comradely feelings, are going to waive their royalties, I fear that disappointment may soon be felt backstage at The Flying Picket 9

Jock Bruce-Gardyne

Shelve this costly library plan

For the first time in a decade I have managed to forgo the pleasures of the party conference. Not for me Sir Ian Gilmour on The Strange Death of Tory England, the exchange with the Fourth Estate of scabrous gossip (in the cause of public morality) about the private lives of senior ministers, and advice from Julian Critchley about appropriate epithets for the Prime Minister. My guess is that, notwithstanding the interesting advance speculation, it will all turn out to be pretty much the victory celebration that it ought to be. But even if I am wrong and the journalists enjoy some of the insights that they largely missed at Brighton, I shall shed no tears for my absence.

Instead I have been giving thought to next week's confrontation in Cabinet on next year's spending plans. We are told that Peter Rook, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, is still about £1½ billion short of his target for economies. If it is not too late, I would like to remind him of one candidate which seems so far to have escaped his attention. I refer to the British Library.

For those who have not followed the story so far, Shirley Williams approved in 1976, and Norman St John-Stevas endorsed in 1980, a plan to build a brand new British Library on a 9½-acre site next door to Euston Station. Since then the Prince of Wales has laid a foundation stone, and the bulldozers have got to work. But there are rumblings of discontent within the establishment. Professor Hugh Thomas - Lord Thomas, head of the Centre for Policy Studies and one of the Prime Minister's trusted advisers - has mustered a formidable lobby of supporters, ranging from Sir Karl Popper to Lord Kaldor, from Sir John Bejerman to Iris Murdoch, in defence of the existing British Museum Reading Room in Bloomsbury, and produced a cheaper plan.

Lord Thomas and his friends are primarily motivated by allegiance to the Reading Room. So they want to use the Euston Road site as a giant storehouse for all the books that the Reading Room cannot accommodate. This would be linked to Bloomsbury by an underground railway which, they are advised, would cost £2m to build. The whole thing, they estimate, would cost "not much more than" the £38m (in 1981 prices) earmarked for just the first stage of the official plan. By contrast, the official scheme, when complete, was estimated to cost £184m in 1977. Lord Thomas thinks that

should be amended to more than £300m by now, and reckons that if we proceed, the final bill will not show much change from £600m. I am sure he is right about that. However, having read his persuasive pamphlet published soon after the general election, I wonder whether the Treasury might not wisely take advantage of the present disarray in the groves of academe and scrap the whole thing altogether.

The justification for this huge piece of public works - apart from the natural inclination of all institutions to get themselves a monument - is that all the books the Reading Room cannot accommodate (and it is supposed to receive a copy of every book published) have to be shipped off to dim and distant Woolwich, whence it takes all of 24 hours to collect them, for would-be readers. Still, I suppose 24 hours is no longer an accommodation all those who require to use it; and that in this day and age it is nothing short of a scandal that we do not have a custom-built, properly air-conditioned, properly air-conditioned sanctuary for the national archive.

Now, according to Lord Thomas and his allies, if it was true that the Reading Room was short of seats back in the 1960s, that it is not the case today. Still, I suppose 24 hours is an unreasonable time to wait for the volume of one's choice; and while the nation's stock of books has muddled on for 200 years without the benefit of proper air-conditioning, now that such scientific aids to preservation are on offer, our descendants might say thank-you to us for making use of them. But for £38m? Let alone £600m?

Not is it just the capital cost which should terrify the Treasury. There is also the little matter of the running costs. Fifteen years ago the component bodies which are due to form the British Library limped along, it seems, with a payroll of £50. Last year this had grown to £1,300. The smart new palace on the Euston Road will apparently need £200 to keep it in the best of health. We have it on the authority of John Biffen that the Tory party traditionally respects the role of public institutions. So be it. But here we have a brand new one which, Lord Thomas is correct, no one wants. They could even sell the Euston Road site outright and credit that against the PSBR for 1984.

Jock Bruce-Gardyne was Economic Secretary to the Treasury in Mrs Thatcher's last government.

James Curran

The Big Sister state rolls a little closer

The findings of the draft report into extensive right-wing penetration of the Conservative Party, produced by a committee of young Conservatives with the blessing of the former party chairman, raise uncomfortable questions about the direction in which the Tory party is turning.

It appears that not only have some people from the neo-Nazi fringe infiltrated the party but that some have actually stood as official Conservative candidates in general and local elections.

But though this report will be gleefully pounced on by some socialist propagandists, neo-Nazis have, in reality, only an insignificant place within the Conservative Party. Far more frightening in many ways are the "civilized" and undeniably democratic members of the New Right, operating from such base camps as the Conservative Philosophy Group, the Social Affairs Unit and the Centre for Policy Studies, because they do occupy places of influence in the heartland of the Conservative Party.

A main thrust of their arguments, forcefully expressed within the elite schools of the party, is that the role of the state needs to be strengthened rather than weakened in many areas of everyday life. As Maurice Cowling, an influential Conservative ideologue, argues in a seminal essay, "Authority should be the byword of freedom."

The impact of these ideologues, and of the debilitating effects of the Irish question on British politics can be seen in a number of recent developments as well as proposals for the next session of Parliament. Taken together, they represent a significant lurch towards an authoritarian state.

In a move unprecedented in educational history, Sir Keith Joseph, the Secretary of State for Education, sought last month to lay down the parameters of correct thinking in schools. He told a joint council of the O-level and CSE boards, preparing the syllabus of the proposed common 16-plus examination, that reference should be omitted from the physics curriculum to "the social and economic issues which arise from scientific knowledge."

In the case of the history syllabus, Sir Keith demanded "Acknowledgement that one of the aims of studying history is to understand the development of the shared values which are a distinctive feature of British society."

If a socialist Education Secretary had the temerity to tell schools that "one of the aims of studying history is to understand the oppositional values which are a distinctive feature of the class struggle in British society", it would be no less objectionable. Politicians, left or right, should be discouraged from defining for teachers the ideological aims of the classroom.

Sir Keith's clumsy attempt at ideological engineering comes at a time when ideological scanning by the state has become more obtru-

sive. Just as plastic bullets were first tried out in Northern Ireland, then adopted by many police forces in Britain, so techniques of surveillance developed in the context of the Irish conflict are also being shipped across to Britain.

The recent experience of Mrs Madeleine Haigh, who, after writing a letter to her local paper opposing the siting of cruise missiles, received a visit from Special Branch officers claiming to investigate a mail-order fraud (a claim which later proved to be bogus) has received extensive press coverage as an exceptional case. But the National Council for Civil Liberties has shown me papers which suggest that the Special Branch has developed dossiers on many law-abiding citizens, from opponents of blood sports, people frequenting homosexual pubs, those involved in the admirable "marching post" foundation in Britain to activists in the peace campaign. Confirmation that this surveillance has become excessive is provided by the symbolic decision of the Cornwall and Devon police taken last year to weed out a large number of Special Branch files on their local citizens.

Yet, instead of seeking to roll back the frontiers of the state, the Government is actively extending its scope and range. Its proposed Police and Criminal Evidence Bill will extend the stop-and-search powers of the police force, and enable the detention of suspects for four days without charge. The supposedly temporary Prevention of Terrorism Act, hurriedly introduced after the Birmingham pub bombing in 1974, will be renewed in the next Parliament with its worst aspects intact. Even though only 2.1 per cent of 5,555 people arrested under its auspices have eventually been charged with offences under the Act, it will still be used to harass the Catholic Irish community in increasingly counter-productive intelligence-gathering exercises.

The Government also intends, in the next Parliament, to entrench the power of the centralized state in a way that is provoking opposition even from its most loyal supporters. Since 1951, local authorities have enjoyed the freedom to levy rates at whatever level they desired. This power now constitutes the one key area of decision-making left to local councils, already reduced by a series of centralizing measures to a minor, subaltern role. If this power is removed by central government *diktat*, as is being proposed, there will be little incentive for people to take part in local elections and still less scope for councillors to serve their constituents.

There was a time when conservatism was associated with getting central government off the backs of the people. This remains part of the rhetoric of platform speakers at the Conservative conference in Blackpool. But the rhetoric is now ceasing to connect with reality, as we move towards a Big Sister state.

The author is editor of *New Socialist*.



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THE CRIME OF VIOLENCE

The motion for debate on the Conservative Party agenda is seldom the precise motion on which the minds, hearts and speeches of most of the Tory representatives are concentrated. It is usually one which maximizes agreement and minimizes dissent - which was the case with the motion yesterday on law and order, which did no more than ask the government to take "further measures to strengthen the force of law." But a sensible Cabinet Minister on such occasions directs his speech to what is in the minds of his party and that is what Mr Leon Brittan did yesterday when he addressed the conference for the first time as Home Secretary.

What the conference wanted was stiffer sentencing for serious, and particularly violent crimes. The intense concern of the Tories in the constituencies was shown by the very large number of motions submitted on law and order - 99 compared with 27 on defence, 20 on the economy and 55 on employment and industrial relations. Overwhelmingly these demanded heavier penalties and greater realism in sentencing, which was also the sense of most of the speeches from the floor yesterday, though some sensibly reminded the conference that detection and punishment are not all sufficient remedies for a violent society.

The challenge to the government was that despite the money given to the police, and more intelligent policing methods, crime is rising. Every day the public is made aware of some new unspeakable vile offence against the person, and often the most vulnerable, the old, the very young, or women. That was the rationale behind the demands for a return of the death

penalty which the House of Commons rightly rejected as incompatible with the moral climate of the time. It is also the rationale behind the demand for heavier sentences now.

It is made not simply by Conservatives, but by a majority of voters who support all parties. On the "soft" side of the penal argument, what is usually stressed is the need for better detection of the criminal. That goes without saying, but it should equally go without saying that the vicious criminal has little to fear from detection if a soft sentence follows. What is no less serious, is the demoralizing effect of soft sentencing on both the police and the public. The police ask what is the point of taking risks to secure a criminal who pays a comparatively small price for his callousness. The public may lose confidence in the criminal justice system, and become less willing to give the police the co-operation on which successful detection often depends.

Having announced, at the time of the capital punishment debate, that twenty year minimum sentences will apply to those who murder police officers, Mr Brittan now intends to apply the same rule to those who murder prison officers, to terrorists and to those who commit sexual or sadistic murders of children. Those who kill when committing robberies with firearms will also serve a twenty year sentence and there will be "very long sentences" for killers of nightwatchmen, postoffice staff and others who do jobs that make them vulnerable. Very sensibly, Mr Brittan also intends to legislate to increase the maximum sentence for carrying firearms to life imprisonment,

and also to enable the Attorney General to refer over-zealous sentences to the Court of Appeal which would virtually indicate the proper penalty in future similar cases, though without altering the sentence of the case referred.

None of these changes infringes the tradition that the hands of the judiciary should not be tied, and that judges should be free to determine sentences in the light of individual circumstances. Without recourse to mandatory sentencing, he is signalling to the judiciary that, since life imprisonment means life unless he commutes it, he will not commute it to less than twenty years for the stated offences. That is a wise course and so is his proposal to meet public criticism of the gap between other sentences and the imprisonment served for them by new arrangements with the parole board.

To combine these changes with an attempt to clear the prisons of lesser offenders must be right and the Home Secretary will be widely supported. Yet in the end, the violence of a society is not merely determined by detection and penalties. It is a cultural phenomenon. The easy violence on television, film and video is part of this cultural phenomenon, and many people, producers, writers and businessmen, not to say the consuming public have responsibilities for it. It defies common sense to think that treating cruelty and violence as legitimate entertainment has no effect on behaviour. If the public itself will make it clear that it will not support a culture of violence, that would be at least as beneficial to a decent society as the measures Mr Brittan announced yesterday.

MR HESELTINE'S OPPORTUNITY

Mr Michael Heseltine has a chance today at Blackpool to show that the Government's thinking about British defence policy goes beyond the question of the nuclear deterrent. His White Paper in July was brutally upstaged the next day by the Chancellor's peremptory cuts. But it would be a pity if Mr Heseltine's sense of outrage at that treatment throws him in opposition to the idea of any cuts, simply to prove that he cannot be pushed around. Cuts in defence there can be, and should be. With a little extra courage and some not very radical analysis Mr Heseltine could achieve both defence cuts and an improvement in Britain's long-term defences.

On mobilization the British Army is brought up to strength by reservists so that its order of battle consists of at least one-third part-time soldiers. The other two services have a smaller reserve component, but also a smaller capability for expansion. Since the abolition of conscription British military manpower has been reduced steadily - 13 per cent in the last ten years - with very little provision for expansion, unlike all the other European allies.

Britain thus suffers two penalties for the maintenance of strictly volunteer forces. It pays a much higher price for a much smaller military capability, in all three services, than any of the allies. Secondly it is condemned to a narrow military base which is unable to achieve the necessary expansion and is constantly being narrowed even further.

The rising cost of equipment and manpower over the last 20 years has shown that it is not possible to maintain all-volunteer forces at the original strength envisaged when con-

scription was abolished. Decline since 1962 has been unrelenting. It will become worse after 1986 when the number of young men between 15 and 24 will fall substantially and continue falling for ten years.

Labour governments have responded to this by ignoring the structural consequences and continuing with cuts. If a Conservative government is to have any claim to be the Party which shows respect for Britain's real security interests, it should now seize the opportunity of a radical restructuring in defence to achieve a better future.

This will involve breaking down the rigidities of manpower policy, career structure, procurement procedures and operational deployment which have paralysed the system hitherto. On manpower the present fixed ratios between regular and reservist forces should be revised. For too long the regular forces have been cut without any matching provision for expanding our military base in such an emergency. They could in fact be cut much more with the right machinery for expansion, which would draw on a much wider reserve of men and women taking part in properly constructed reservist schemes with appropriate training.

Once the armed forces can be weaned away from a natural obsession with structure, and protecting their narrowing base, manning levels in the forces could be fundamentally and profitably reassessed with a view to raising productivity in peace time. The ratio of officers to men needs to be reviewed. It compares unfavourably with many modern armed forces. So does the strength of each force, compared to its potential fire-

power. There will be a need for more recruitment of women, which should match the abolition of a ponderous career structure which guarantees servicemen a lifetime in the armed forces followed by pensions and associated services which cost £3,000 annually for each member of the armed forces. To that must be added their housing, the education of their children, and all their health and welfare which is carried on the defence budget.

On equipment policy there should be similar revision. The needs of an elite force, with high standards of professionalism, have led to a pervasive determination to purchase only the best equipment, designed and built in Britain. It is ironic that so much of this equipment was then shown up last year in a contest with a second-ranking power which had been able to buy its equipment on the open market. The cost advantages of more standardization within Nato, longer production runs, and more improvisation would be manifest.

Finally, deployment. The Soviet threat is met in Central Europe by forces of which the British contribution is a tiny part. Britain is much the best endowed European power to contribute to the emerging threat somewhere on the flanks since otherwise the Americans would be left to do it alone. In the 1980s the preponderance of British forces permanently maintained on the European continent should be lightened, with Britain's Rhine Army reduced and the Air Force redeployed. It is a complicated and radical exercise which is required. That is the challenge facing Mr Heseltine today.

MURDER IN RANGOON

The bomb explosion in Rangoon on Sunday which killed four South Korean Cabinet ministers and fifteen other people is the second tragedy to have struck South Korea in less than two months. In terms of its international significance, it does not compare with the destruction of the South Korean airliner off Sakhalin Island on September 1. Even its effect on South Korean domestic politics is unlikely to be excessively damaging. President Chun Doo Hwan has lost two of his most senior economic advisers, as well as a foreign minister of unusual ability and experience, as the result of the bombing. But he is in the fortunate position of being able to draw on a large pool of administrative talent, so his losses, though serious, are not irreplaceable. Even so, the bombing outrage is bound to increase the siege mentality of the South Korean government.

President Chun has had no hesitation in blaming the bombing on North Korea. The North Korean government of President Kim Il Sung is a particularly unpleasant regime which relies on a personality cult even more

odious than those of Stalin and Mao. Such an act of violence would be quite within its abilities. But there are grounds for questioning whether the North Koreans were, in fact, involved. Burma is one of the few Asian countries with which North Korea has good relations and the North Koreans would be unlikely to jeopardize their friendship with the Burmese in such a way.

There are moreover a number of minority and other dissident groups within Burma itself which might equally well have been responsible. Nonetheless President Chun is likely to stick to his conviction that the North Koreans were behind the bombing, and in one sense it is his conviction that matters. The bombing incident will reinforce the strident anti-communism of the government in South Korea and will probably lead to a further tightening of political control.

The state of confrontation which has existed in the Korean peninsula since the time of the Korean war is of little benefit to any of the principal parties concerned. None of the major

Trustworthiness as touchstone in public office

From Mr A. B. Ducker
Sir, In the Parkinson affair, it is a pity that you concentrated your editorial upon current sexual attitudes more than on the simple precepts of honesty and fidelity. Apart from the unnecessary suffering caused to the women personally involved, the importance for the nation at large rests in the fact that honesty and fidelity have been shown deficient in the character of a person appointed to represent us in high matters of state. Ordinary people at home and the representatives of other countries abroad, can perceive this fact, and it is the Prime Minister's duty to restore the trustworthiness of her Government. Yours truly, A. B. DUCKER, Donnybrook, College Road, Bath, Avon, October 7.

From the Reverend Richard James
Sir, While our hearts go out to all those directly affected by this tragic situation, its indirect consequences are equally disquieting. Why, if it is purely a private matter, was any public statement from No 10 deemed so necessary and issued so promptly? Is the question of resignation ruled out so categorically because adultery, like any other sin repeated, can be fully forgiven, or because it is considered insignificant in today's climate where one in three marriages break up and one in seven families have only one parent? Carrington respected for "doing the honourable thing" over a national disgrace of which he was not the personal cause, and Cecil Parkinson's services are now so insistently retained?

From Mr J. F. Bird
Sir, Mr Parkinson's conduct has implications for his public life which cannot be dismissed as easily as your leading article suggests. Insofar as the character of a public figure is reflected in his private life, this surely must be a matter of public concern, whether or not public statements are made. Leaving aside the moral issues, where there may be differences of view, Mr Parkinson has by his own admission betrayed personal relationships. This is dishonest. Also he is to be the father of a child who in effect will have no father. This is irresponsible.

From Mr Anthony Smith, QC
Sir, Yours is not a little paper run by a dated clique of aging public schoolboys raising laughs and circulation out of the follies of others. Because we all commit folly of some kind, it is easy enough for others to talk up such folly indiscriminately to destroy. On the part of the supposedly responsible it can be intellectual vandalism. In my judgment few politicians of any party inspire by appearances much admiration for real ability. For this observer, Mr Parkinson's appearance have for some years constituted a notable exception to that rule. I would not have thought the manifestation of honesty, or love, or loyalty, or even of sin that is supposed to be original and in us all, reveals such startling defects of character as to make him less fit to serve the rest of us now than he was when we did not know.

From Mrs Vyvyan Evans
Sir, While I realize that your leading article on the "Parkinson affair" (October 7) is intended to give a fair and balanced view of the situation without innuendo, I must protest at the way in which you accuse the public of "one of its periodic fits of false morality and hypocrisy." It is not the public which sends its reporters to hound the lives of well known people when they depart from accepted rules of behaviour but the editors of newspapers intent on exploiting the situation to the full. It is in the interests of society that marriage in general should survive and that those involved in this particular one should be allowed to sort out their difficulties without the harsh glare of publicity upon them. To the press, however, this is just another scoop - from the despicable *Private Eye*, with its particularly underhand way of forcing the matter into the open, to the bland and reasonable view of *The Times* in its leader.

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From Sir John Herbecy
Sir, I have no wish to comment on the Parkinson affair, but your comments (leading article, October 7) that "We all know too well that whatever society's aspirations to the contrary, life in this land is full of split homes, illegitimacy, and one-parent families" simply will not do. On the contrary, life in this land is full of united homes, legitimacy and two-parent families. Despite the lamentable increase in split homes and the rest, those who have brought about this state of affairs remain a small minority in this land and there is no reason why their conduct should be held to have established a new norm in morality acceptable to a public at large who have no right to expect anything better in their leaders. Yours faithfully, JOHN HERBECY, Maryland Lodge Meadow, Cuckfield, Haywards Heath, West Sussex, October 7.

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Cenotaph ceremony

From Mr J. M. Rex
Sir, I find Mr Wheldon's letter (September 30) and his frustration understandable, but inappropriate. His motivation, however, seems exclusively political. Those who died are, at one and the same time, the nation's dead, yet unpossessable. They belong to no political party. There are still many opportunities to honour them, privately, in churches and at other ceremonies throughout this country each November, in addition to the honour and recognition paid by the Head of State at the Cenotaph. Yours faithfully, JAMES REX, 15 Southfield Road, Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol, Avon, October 3.

Opera's plight

From the Managing Director, English National Opera
Sir, Reports in *The Times* and other newspapers about the Priestley study of the Royal Opera House and the Royal Shakespeare Company raise some crucial issues in the area of arts funding. My regret is that the Priestley report discussed only two of the national companies with the resulting implication (in various newspaper articles) that the financial position of English National Opera is in some way more secure. The plight of the English National Opera is every bit as serious as that of the Royal Opera House or the Royal Shakespeare Company. English National Opera has, perhaps mistakenly, chosen to remain relatively silent about its problems while continuing to mount what we hope are enterprising seasons - but

From Mr J. C. Reynolds
Sir, Your leader "No time to tinker" (September 26) suggests that criticisms of Mr Fowler's 1 per cent cut in the health service budget are to be dismissed as "trigger-happy hysteria", though anyone who has been watching television news programmes know that doctors and nurses not given to hysteria - think otherwise. You are, Sir, correct, of course, in saying that Mrs Thatcher fell into a trap of her own making when she said, before the election, "the health service is safe with the Conservative Government". She should have said "the health service will be dismantled gradually by the Conservative Government when we return to power". As an ageing, overweight former extra A player and a life member of a well-known rugby club, I am still not always able to procure tickets for internationals at Twickenham. The evident assumption that only rugby club members are interested in rugby is patronizing. In no other sport is this "tickets for the boys only" policy practised. Only the touts can benefit from it. Yours faithfully, DAVID HEALD, Darwin College, The University of Kent, Canterbury, Kent, October 4.

On the wrong tack?

From Lord Brabazon of Tara
Sir, I feel I must protest at Sir Eric St Johnston's letter (October 1) proposing the burying of the America's Cup and the scrapping of 12-metre racing. The series gave many people all over the world a great deal of excitement and enjoyment, as well as the four million people who visited Rhode Island to see it. In an age when so many sportsmen seem to demand a subsidy from taxpayer or ratepayer before taking to their chosen field, and there are so many so willing to distribute largesse providing someone else is paying, it is, I agree, unfashionable for someone actually to want to spend his own money in the attempted fulfilment of a dream. Sir Eric suggests each country which built a 12-metre should build two sail-training ships, but they were all built by individuals or syndicates, not by countries. Nowadays everything is related to the number of jobs it may create. £5m is not a bad start; just think what would have happened if Victory 83 had won and the next series had come to Britain, and how many training ships would have been funded by the spin-off. Well done, Mr de Savary, and let's hope you have another go next time, and win! Yours faithfully, BRABAZON OF TARA, 35 Cloncurry Street, SW6.

Hospital cuts

From Mr J. C. Reynolds
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From Mr David Heald
Sir, Mr John Payne's justified indignation (September 27) at the all too selective distribution of international tickets by the Rugby Football Union will hardly be assuaged by Mr David Gabbitt's somewhat glib reply (October 1). As an ageing, overweight former extra A player and a life member of a well-known rugby club, I am still not always able to procure tickets for internationals at Twickenham. The evident assumption that only rugby club members are interested in rugby is patronizing. In no other sport is this "tickets for the boys only" policy practised. Only the touts can benefit from it. Yours faithfully, DAVID HEALD, Darwin College, The University of Kent, Canterbury, Kent, October 4.

Young offenders

From Mr Maurice Logan-Salton
Sir, There is an effect of the increase in the numbers of juveniles receiving custodial sentences which is not mentioned in the letter from Ms Vivien Sierra (September 29). Since 1980 this country has lost most of its finest boarding schools for problematic youngsters, particularly those young offenders who nowadays are simply sent to detention centres and youth custody centres. In Scotland the schools are known as List D Schools, while in England and Wales they are called Community Homes with Education (CHEs). These boarding schools represented the positive approach to those youngsters deemed by the courts to need to spend a period away from their homes, and as such were a major national resource in the fight against crime.

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Deficit financing to aid recovery

From Mr Bryan Gould, MP for Dagenham (Labour)
Sir, In your even-handed comment on Neil Kinnock's Brighton speech (leading article, October 7), you warn against ignoring "the damage done to competitive production by eroding money values as a result of over-borrowing by the Government". This is an odd warning to give at a time when the Americans are busy showing us the immense benefits to be gained from deficit financing. By following Keynesian prescriptions in this regard, the Americans are raising output and cutting unemployment without running into inflationary problems. Their experience demonstrates that expansion needs financing and that inflation can safely be undertaken when there is a substantial margin of spare capacity. In this country, we have so far taken only a few faltering steps along that path. Yet, in the 15 months to March 31, 1983, our Government happily presided over a £2.4-bn increase in bank lending to the private sector. The consequences were not the erosion of money values you warn against, but lower interest rates, lower inflation and, a modest economic recovery. Surely the evidence is that we need more of the same, so, why leave it to the private sector? Over the same 15-month period, the Government took £2.4bn out of the economy, thereby pulling against the direction so enthusiastically taken by the private sector. If only the Government were prepared to do its bit, by under-funding (so that there was no upward pressure on interest rates), we might yet get a really effective American-style stimulus, without which our pitiful "recovery" is doomed to peter out. Yours faithfully, BRYAN GOULD (Chairman, Labour Economic Policy Group), House of Commons, October 10.

Inner-city churches

From the Reverend Prebendary R. A. Coogan
Sir, I have much sympathy with Mr C. Hammond's plea (October 4) for inner-city churches which provide "a setting within which the liturgy can be enacted most expressively and fulfilled most completely" and I share his concern about the liturgical and architectural merit of modern churches and the replacement "worship centres". However, it must be said that the inner areas of our great cities have simply too many churches. The great majority were built between 1850 and 1900, often at the whim of individual priests or donors who could not have foreseen the social and economic facts of the 1980s. In the London Borough of Camden there are 32 Anglican parish churches, serving a population which has halved since most of those churches were built. Many Christians would find it hard to justify the retention of all these churches and, leaving aside questions of staffing and other pastoral considerations, the Church can no longer provide adequate finance for their proper upkeep. If all the inner-city churches are to be kept, even as architectural "signs", then substantial financial resources must be found from non-Church sources. We do appreciate the love and self-sacrifice of small devoted congregations, but should the upkeep of buildings be the first call on their efforts? I have personal experience of a parochial church council which, after years of unequal struggle, voted unanimously to have their church declared redundant. That congregation is now part of a living Christian community worshipping in another building. They have gained by their courageous decision. Redundancy and demolition can lead to growth in the church of the inner city. Yours faithfully, R. COOGAN, Vicar and Area Dean, The Parish Church of All Hallows, Hampstead, 27 Thurlow Road, NW3, October 5.

Grave thought

From Mr G. W. Thomas
Sir, Some time ago a notice outside an Edinburgh park which said, "downputting of uplified children", led me to assume an enlightened Scottish attitude to the problems of youth. My view was modified by a longer acquaintance with the area, but now that I am approaching an age which engenders contemplation of the hereafter I am encouraged to find an unequivocal statement of policy on a notice in the cemetery of Rosslyn Chapel (Borders region) which says: "No children allowed into this burial ground unless accompanied by parents or guardians". Yours faithfully, G. W. THOMAS, Low Bield, Outgate, Ambleside, Cumbria, September 29.

Bar to progress?

From Mr Michael O'Neil
Sir, Even in this centre of excellence the Fellows' car park at St Catherine's College bears a notice reading: "These gates may be closed at any time and unauthorised cars removed" - over the enclosing 12ft walls, presumably. Yours faithfully, MICHAEL O'NEIL, 1 Lammas Field, Cambridge, October 4.

In March Bob Hawke, the ebullient former Rhodes scholar and trade union leader, led the Labour Party to a landslide victory in the general elections. Tony Duboudin writes from Melbourne on the performance of the new government.

Seven months into its term, the new Australian Labour government, the first since Mr Gough Whitlam's administration, has avoided the mistakes, turmoil and shoot-from-the-hip style that characterized the Whitlam years.

There has not been the flurry of legislation, initiatives and pronouncements which marked the last Labour term. While the watchword in Canberra now is evolution rather than revolution, the difference between the last Labour government and Mr Bob Hawke's administration is also as much a matter of style.

The Prime Minister's team has made some *faux pas* — the "spy" flight over Tasmania at the time of the Franklin dam row and the dispute with the chairman of the Australian Broadcasting Commission (as it then was) come to mind — but none of them was allowed to develop into a major issue. Mr Hawke acted rapidly and effectively to dampen any possible trouble.

The most significant matter, which has marred an otherwise fine record, has been the Coombe-Ivanov affair, and there too Mr Hawke acted rapidly and ruthlessly in seeking, and obtaining, the resignation of Mr Mick Young, the Special Minister for State, and a close personal confidant. By that action the Prime Minister made it clear that he was not going to allow the actions of an individual to embarrass his government, something which happened all too often under Mr Whitlam.

The Royal Commission, established by Mr Hawke to look into the affair and Mr David Coombe's relationship with Mr Valeriy Ivanov, a Soviet diplomat, has proved an

embarrassment for the Government. With hindsight Mr Hawke probably wished that he had not set it up. However, it did prove that the Prime Minister was not going to show any favours to colleagues.

Mr Young was alleged to have tipped off a Canberra lobby correspondent that a Russian diplomat was about to be expelled.

Mr Hawke has created a Hawke government first and secondly, and some say almost incidentally, a Labour government. While this style of leadership has not won him any friends among Labour Party ideologists, it has certainly gained the confidence of business and investors.

Sometimes it is hard to grasp that there has been a change of party in Canberra. One newspaper columnist described Mr Hawke as more of a conserva-

tive than Mr Malcolm Fraser, the former Prime Minister.

Despite this conservative approach, the Labour government has managed to retain the confidence and, more importantly, the support of the union movement, although there are signs that the honeymoon may be drawing to a close. The social contract with the unions and employers, thrashed out at the national economic summit held in Canberra in April, has largely held good despite runarounds from left-wing unions.

However, the most important test of the accord will be whether the more extreme unions will be happy with the 4.3 per cent national wage decision granted by the Arbitration Commission. Should they consider it inadequate, the Prime Minister can look forward to a stormy few months. His ability to hold wage

demands at reasonable levels will almost certainly be the issue upon which this Labour government will be judged. It is also essential if it is to have any chance of fulfilling its election pledge of creating 500,000 new jobs during its three-year term.

Encouraging hi-tech industries

So far there are few signs that Labour will be any more able to reduce unemployment than its predecessors. There was an imperceptible drop in the number of jobless in the most recent quarterly figures but hardly anything to warrant rejoicing.

Unemployment is unlikely to improve until the world economy picks up and then not

necessarily significantly. Australia, in common with similar industrialized nations, faces the problem of aging, inefficient industries. The problem is compounded in Australia's case by its being a country with a high-wage structure in the midst of a low-wage cost region.

Any wage explosion, as well as jeopardizing Labour's economic recovery programme, will rekindle memories of the last Labour government and the runaway inflation of the Whitlam era. That, more than any other single point, gave Mr Malcolm Fraser his biggest stick against Labour.

This fear of precipitating another inflationary spiral has undoubtedly influenced Mr Hawke's approach. Under Mr Whitlam, inflation reached more than 17 per cent, fired by a free-spending public programme.

The government, also aware of Australia's industrial shortcomings, has taken a number of initiatives to encourage the high technology sector with generous tax concessions for investors in high-risk industries. However, in some areas, particularly computers and related products, Mr Barry Jones, the Minister for Science and Technology, believes that it is already too late for Australia. He says the country has "missed the boat".

Mine and farm are big export earners

While long-term prospects lie in new industries, mining and agriculture will remain Australia's major earners of export income.

Mr Hawke faces opposition from within the Labour Party and from the unions over uranium mining and the government's attitude to Indonesia over East Timor.

The party's policy on uranium, agreed to after extremely tortuous negotiations, in which Mr Hawke played a leading role, is that existing mines should be allowed to fulfil contracts entered into but that no new contracts should be signed or new mines started, except where uranium exists with other minerals. Ultimately the policy commits Labour to phase out the industry.

Mr Hawke has now said that he feels existing mines should be allowed to negotiate new overseas contracts to enable them to dispose of their production. This is a liberal interpretation of the letter of the party policy, if not the spirit.

Mr Hawke further angered the anti-uranium lobby by criticizing the demonstrators who blockaded the Roxby Downs mine in South Australia in August. Speaking in Tasmania he said: "You see some of the same faces there as were here (protesting against the Franklin dam in Tasmania)." The phrase was reminiscent of a more conservative government.

The Prime Minister has already received two warnings from the party and its backers on the uranium question. The Victoria branch of the party warned the government not to water down its policy and the Australian Council of Trade Unions also told the government not to soften its line. Mr Hawke has, apparently, ignored both warnings.

On foreign policy Mr Hawke has ignored party policy on the East Timor question and has accepted as fact Indonesia's takeover of the former Portuguese colony, again angering both wings of the party. The East Timor issue is one that soured Australia's relations with its nearest and largest neighbour, particularly because of the five newsmen killed by Indonesian troops during fighting following the Djakarta takeover.

Captivated by the Queen Mother

Mr Hawke again attracted some criticism, although of a milder nature, when he went to London and was seen by Australian television viewers to be captivated by the Queen Mother. The obvious pleasure he showed in her company did not quite fit in with his previously stated republican views.

Mr Hawke has been described as representing a new breed of politician. That may be true, but the problems he faces are not new; they are similar to ones faced by virtually every leader in the Western world. It remains to be seen whether he can provide the leadership and new direction that Australia seeks to lift it out of the depression.

It is unlikely that any recent Australian political leader has come to power with such high hopes. The size of the task Mr Hawke has shouldered is enormous and is likely to be matched only by the disappointment among his followers should he fail.

On other pages

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Australia



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AUSTRALIA

Foreign policy is, more than any other, the area in which the young Hawke government has made its mark, although in a manner distressingly pragmatic to many Labour purists. Though both Bill Hayden, the foreign minister, and Bob Hawke, the Prime Minister, are keen to trumpet their interest in human rights questions, their attitude has been tempered by national self-interest. Concern has been expressed about human rights under the regimes of Chile and the Philippines, but the administration has turned a blind eye to the continuing tragedy on Australia's northern doorstep in East Timor.

Sections of the Labour Party continue to worry about the fragmentary reports of a renewed Indonesian military

offensive in East Timor following isolated uprisings by the East Timorese.

Those strange allies, Mr Hayden and Mr Hawke, the man who ousted Mr Hayden from the Labour leadership the day this year's election was announced, have conspired to prevent a major confrontation within the ruling party over the thwarting of Labour policy on East Timor.

In Labour's seven months in office the focus has switched decisively from preoccupation with Australia's alliance with the United States to concern with its role within its own region, most importantly with members of Asean (Association of South-East Asian Nations), and with its scattered eastern neighbours in the Pacific.

Australia's ambivalence

towards Indonesia, Asean's most powerful member and Australia's nearest neighbour, is long standing and real. East Timor has been jettisoned by the Labour leadership in order to cement relations with Jakarta.

Under the previous Liberal (conservative) government, Malcolm Fraser, the Prime Minister, took firm personal control of foreign policy. He spread Australian influence thin internationally and lost ground with its Asian neighbours.

Foreign policy is one of the few areas on which Mr Hawke

has not imposed his personal stamp. Had he done so, the Labour Government's foreign policy would have been little different from that of the previous administration - internationalist, sympathetic to the US, fiercely anti-Soviet.

Mr Hayden, having lost his party's leadership to Mr Hawke, has refused to cede control of foreign policy. He is one of the few ministers who have asserted themselves over Mr Hawke; Australia's switch of emphasis from the US to Asia reflects this.

Mr Hayden spent the first

FOREIGN POLICY

Turning a blind eye to tragedy

months of government out of the public eye, nursing his wounds and listening to his department's advice. He emerged to announce that improved relations with Asia were his main goal and promptly flew off to meet President Suharto of Indonesia. This was followed by trips to other Asean members and to Vietnam.

In seeking to persuade Asian leaders that the government saw Australia's future in Asia, Mr Hayden faced two obstacles in Labour Party policy, which is theoretically binding on a Labour Government. The first was support for East Timorese self-determination, a stance fiercely resented by Indonesia, and regarded with suspicion by other Asean states. The other obstacle was a commitment to provide aid to Vietnam. This, too, was resented by Asean members, for whom Vietnam's presence in Cambodia is an important policy concern.

Mr Hayden and Mr Hawke have simply ignored Timor, professed their desire for improved relations with Indonesia

and avoided a confrontation in the Labour Party over the issue by the recent fortuitous UN decision not to debate East Timor this year.

On Vietnam, the government has similarly avoided both implementing policy and internal manoeuvre by the grandiose expedient of offering to mediate between Asean, Vietnam and China over Cambodia.

Though there is little likelihood of this offer being taken up, it enables the government to refuse to implement party policy, which is of great symbolic importance to the Labour left wing because of its strong opposition to Australian participation in the Vietnam war, while the mediation proposal is on the table.

On these two issues as much as any other the maturity and pragmatism, but the loss of idealism, of the Hawke Government are apparent. Its attitude stands in contrast to that of the previous Labour administration under Gough Whitlam, which fell from power in 1975.

Mr Hawke made talks with President Reagan the highlight

of his first overseas trip, delivered an unqualified endorsement of continued close relations between the two countries and, to the surprise of many Australians, was warmly applauded by US policies in that turbulent region, in which Australia has no direct interest.

While Mr Hawke reassured the conservative Australian electorate that little had changed since the passing of the Liberal government, Mr Hayden persuaded the administration to agree to a joint statement spelling out each country's role and responsibilities under Asean (Australia/New Zealand/US alliance).

As Mr Hayden sees it, the alliance remains important but Australia must develop greater self-reliance in foreign policy and defence strategy and procurement. The new policy has caused general endorsement from the Liberal Opposition yet leaves the present government scope to move closer to Asia.

To emphasize the shift in Australian priorities, Mr Hayden concluded his announcement in September with the footnote that though Asean was important, relations with Asean were more important.

Relations with Britain show little sign of changing under

Labour. Mr Hawke knows that republicanism is electorally unpopular and will not push the issue. The main concern of Australia's policy-makers focuses on trade relations with Britain as filtered through the European Community. Tension over agricultural trade has diminished with the change in government but there is potential for conflict over Labour's unresolved policy to ban uranium exports to France.

On South Africa, the Labour government has surprisingly softened its conservative predecessor's bans on sporting contacts in what can only be described as an opportunistic concession to Australia's obsession with sport.

Disarmament has not been an important public issue in Australia. The debate has been confined to specialists and a small peace movement, but Mr Hayden has tentatively raised the issue in the hope of initiating a public debate and has appointed a special disarmament ambassador. He has also proposed a Pacific nuclear-free zone (which would nevertheless permit US nuclear vessels to cross the Pacific) and a government-funded peace institute.

Ian Davis
The Age

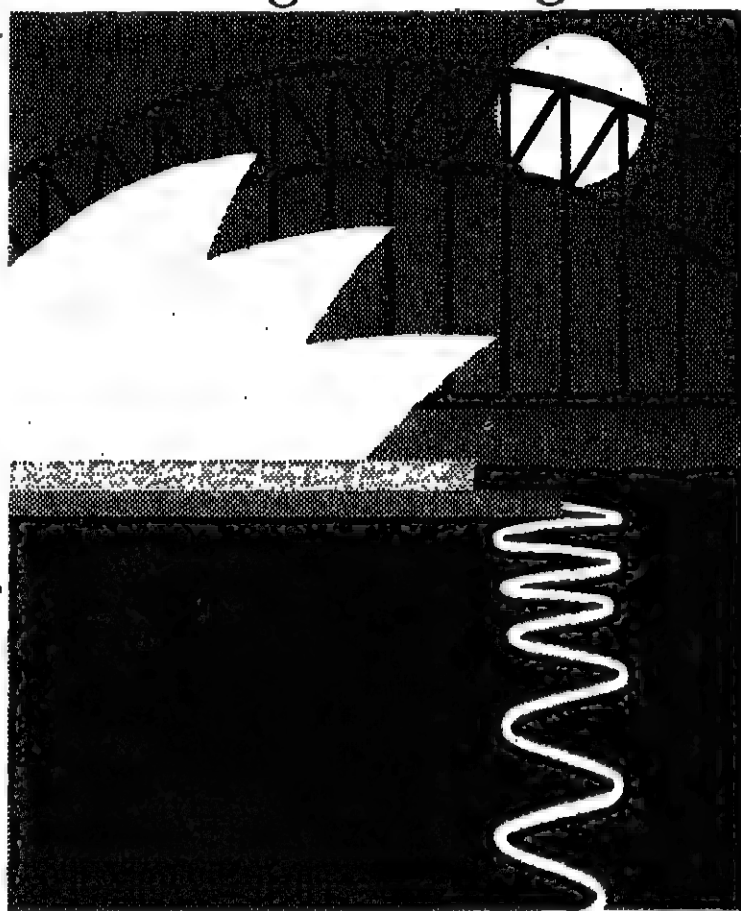
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FOREIGN INVESTMENT

New realism to conquer old fears?

The Hawke government had to address itself to the issue of foreign investment only three days after its resounding victory at the polls. In the run-up to the March 5 election more than \$A3,000m (£1,818m) had fled the country, and on March 8 the government was forced to devalue the Australian dollar by 10 per cent to restore some parity to the domestic money market and stability to Australia's capital account.

The Australian Labour Party is profoundly distrustful of foreign capital. Xenophobia partly explains it. Perhaps more to the point, however, is the fear of being controlled by outside forces, of having control and sovereignty diminished by an interest incompatible with Australia's perceived national interest. It was these concerns which led the Whitlam government (1972-1975) to seek billions of petrodollars, not through its fiscal agent of long standing (Morgan Stanley), but via Tirath Khemlani, who was indicted by a federal grand jury in New York for conspiracy in 1980.

However, Bob Hawke, the new Prime Minister, and Paul Keating, the Treasurer, do not share their party's more extreme views on foreign capital and foreign investment in Australia. During visits to New York and Washington since their election, both have taken pains to reassure foreign bankers and investors that Australia welcomes foreign investment. Mr Keating, while shadow Treasurer, met several foreign bankers resident in Australia, partly to disabuse them of any latent concerns over a Labour government, partly to listen to their views.

Although Mr Keating has made a number of controversial

decisions on foreign investment, his mind has been elsewhere. On being elected, the government faced heavy budgetary problems and its Treasurer, while a politician of formidable acumen, was unschooled in economics. He had a budget to present only five months after his appointment.

In July last year the Labour Party held its biennial federal conference. This conference is the supreme policy-making organ of the party, and what it decides is meant, at least in theory, to be binding on a federal Labour government. The latitude which the government has in the timing of the introduction of the party's policy.

The Labour Party's policy on foreign investment says, *inter alia*, that a Labour government will "maintain the existing restrictions on foreign entry to strategic sectors of the economy, including banking, and reverse the current trend towards increased foreign domination of the Australian economy, by seeking increased Australian ownership and control of resources and enterprises and by carefully regulating foreign investment and short-term financial flows". It will also "expand the functions of the Foreign Investment Review Board (FIRB) and establish clear guidelines for the entry and expansion of foreign enterprises in Australia, by taking steps to require majority Australian participation in new projects in all sectors, including by public equity, for example, through the Resource Development Fund".

The policy also seeks to preserve key, yet unspecified, sectors of the Australian economy for solely Australian ownership, control the level of borrowing in the domestic capital market by foreign companies, but encourage foreign capital through overseas and offshore borrowing, rather than in the form of equity.

Mr Keating has instructed his department to review Australia's

foreign investment policy in the light of the above. The review was intended to be completed by the end of September, but it has not yet appeared.

Since the election the government has administered a policy drawn up by its predecessors, which speaks in vague and general terms of "net economic benefit", a term that has been subject to much lofty exegesis. While Canberra's bureaucrats maintain that there has been no policy change under Mr Keating, there has, in fact, been a substantial change in the interpretation of the policy.

Whether that change has come from Mr Keating himself or the bureaucrats who advise him, is a moot point. One senior adviser concerned over this development said: "FIRB's attitude to the handling of applications has become much tougher. Their reports are much tougher and so are their recommendations. For the most part they have been accepted by the Treasurer."

Under this new look FIRB, every application is regarded *de novo*; past decisions now appear to carry little weight at all. This is especially so when it comes to changes of ownership in the financial sector. To an incredulous financial community, Mr Keating refused a deal whereby the American Citibank would sell 49.9 per cent of a large merchant bank and discount house, Citibank Australia, to Australia's second biggest life assurance company, National Mutual T-and-G Life. In return, Citibank would buy Grindlays Australia, a wholly-owned offshoot of Grindlays Bank. Citibank was selling 49.9 per cent of a company with assets of \$A420m to acquire a company with assets of \$A107.7m. Mr Keating could not see a net economic benefit in the transaction.

He has also refused foreign acquisitions in manufacturing, Australia's giant farming, trade and financial house, Elders DCL, was not permitted to sell

its edible foods division to Unilever Australia because of the increased foreign control of the edible oils industry, particularly retail margarine, which would follow. Likewise, a takeover of the Australian sweet manufacturer, Allen's Confectionery, by Cadbury Schweppes (Australia) and a local private company, Nelson Australia, was refused on the grounds that Cadbury Schweppes already had a majority position in the domestic non-chocolate sector of the confectionery industry.

When the present government assumed power, its precursor had already called for applications from "about 10" new banking licences. Towards the end of May, Mr Keating issued a statement rescinding the previous government's offer and announcing a new mini-inquiry to review the Campbell Committee's recommendations on the financial system in the light of the new government's "economic and social objectives". This committee, dubbed the Martin Committee, after its chairman, Vic Martin, a senior Australian banker, is due to report to the Treasurer by late next month.

The consensus among advisers suggests that only four or five foreign banks will be admitted. This would imply one bank each from Britain, the United States and Japan and, perhaps, two from continental Europe. There seems little chance that foreigners will be allowed to own more than 50 per cent of any new bank.

Foreign investment policy in Australia is in transition. Two reviews are underway; each will be addressed to a government wedded to the notion that the economic system can, and should, be used for its social objectives. This, laced with pragmatism, will guide policy in Mr Hawke's first term.

Simon Holberton
The Age

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ECONOMY

Luck fails the Lucky Country

Three or four years ago the Australian economy was managed with admirable conservatism by Malcolm Fraser, whose views coincided with those of John Stone, permanent head of the Treasury. The inflation rate was well below the average of that for members of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and, when oil prices jumped, Australia, with its stability and energy riches, became the darling of the world financial community.

However, that was mostly a chimera. Oil prices fell and drought struck the rural areas. That could not be helped. But Australia has also had a burst of economic mismanagement and union bloody-mindedness unmatched since the Whitlam-Cairns era of 1973-75.

The outcome was: inflation now running at double the OECD rate; a federal budget deficit of nearly \$A8,400m (£5,000m) or 4.7 per cent of gdp; unemployment at 10.3 per cent and officially forecast to rise in 1983-84; corporate profitability reduced to the lowest post-war level and no rise in private investment or self-sustaining recovery in sight.

Overall, the economy shrank by 2 per cent - Australia's worst annual performance since 1946. In the past two months the economy has ceased to contract, and, with farming reviving strongly, it is heading for moderate growth in 1983-84; official forecasts have edged up to 3.5 per cent.

The growth is largely the result of an 18.5 per cent rise in spending by the Fraser government (6.3 per cent in real dollars) in 1982-83, and projected rise of 15.8 per cent (7.2 per cent real) under Bob Hawke.

Neither Australian leader has faith in such a Keynesian prescription for a sick economy. To a degree, Mr Hawke was locked into a giant deficit this year by Mr Fraser's vote-buying budget 14 months ago. However, the Labour Prime Minister passed over the chance to trim it by a couple of billion dollars.

He argued that an apparently excessive deficit was justifiable because his pre-election agreement with the union movement (further huffed at the union-government-employer summit talks in May) would hold down wages growth. The agreement involves full indexation of wages to the consumer price index.

Mr Hawke has had one nasty shock already, with the consumer price index 4.3 per cent, or nearly one per cent more than he expected.

The agreement may also be starting to unravel as stronger unions aim at above-indexation rises. But it is too early yet to know whether the breaches so far, such as the SA16 rise spreading through the chemical industry, are the first of many.

Even if the union leaders stick with the agreement - and they are angry with Mr Hawke over his policies on superannuation taxes and tariff barriers - the workers on site take a less lofty view of national requirements. Regardless of unemployment levels, real wage cuts are not part of their vocabulary.

The Australian workforce enjoyed a real wage growth of about 7 per cent in 1980-82, at the expense of corporate profitability, and even the present two years of zero real wage growth leave workers reasonably well off.

Still, things could have been worse. From December 1982 to June 1983, unions went along with a wage pause. Future indexation is likely to be half-yearly rather than quarterly, allowing some restoration of profit share to corporations. An indexation regime, coupled with orthodox fiscal policies, slowly got the economy out of the mire after 1975. But there is no guarantee that even if indexation is adhered to in the next two or three years, the new combination of indexation and mega-deficits will work.

In a review of Australia's five-year economic outlook last month, Lloyds International predicts only a slow recovery to 1983-84, a quick boom and then poor performance to 1988. The forecast appears to take as its premise an inability of the Hawke government to keep control of wage rises. Any failure of the 1983-84 budget strategy, moreover, could cause Labour to adopt worse rather than better strategies.

In the past 12 months interest rates have come down slightly, despite financing of the \$A4,500m deficit. This occurred partly because of falling international rates and partly because of the slump in investment, and hence in corporate sector borrowings - a matter of cold comfort. Indeed, new capital raisings by listed companies in the March quarter were negative - the first time

this has been reported since 1950.

The outlook for interest rates in the coming year is more precarious, especially if the US rates start to rise. As the Treasury noted in the budget papers, sales of government bonds to the non-bank sector in the single year 1982-83 were greater in real terms than total sales to the non-banks during the whole of the 1970s. In 1983-84, the non-banks will have to digest an equivalent offering again.

Financial markets are becoming sceptical of governments' ability to deliver their promises on monetary policy. For five successive years the government has overshot its own targets on monetary growth, hardly conducive to confidence in financial markets. The current target is 9-11 per cent (M3), still disturbingly high. Meanwhile the floor being set under interest rates by government funding needs, makes a recovery of private investment less likely - the normal problem with government-led recoveries.

Corporate gross operating surpluses (profits, before interest and direct tax) fell 17 per cent in real terms in 1982, and after-interest surpluses would have fallen even more sharply. Even after the slight rises in profitability in the past half year, the health of the corporate sector is close to its lowest point on record, the previous nadir being 1974.

In manufacturing, output in 1982-83 tumbled 11 per cent, far exceeding the previous notorious decline of 1974-75. Housing construction sank by 25 per cent, but this has now revived as a result of all the money that the government has thrown at it. The revival of manufacturing is not yet predictable though surveys of levels of confidence are just starting to register an important move.

One survey of the metal and engineering sector a few weeks ago recorded that it had suffered the worst shake-out in 20 years, but with an upturn expected later in 1984. Almost half the respondents were restructuring, but not through investment; they were substituting imported parts, narrowing product lines, and merging with rivals.

British businessmen have been heartened by anti-protectionist comments by Labour government leaders, including

Bill Hayden the foreign minister, who said in September that Australia was "embracing generic industries in a sort of formaldehyde of protection". The Australian British Trade Association says it is of tremendous significance that the government so early in its tenure (and despite the recession) has recognized the need for freer trade.

Statements by Australian governments on freer trade have been two-a-penny for decades, while protective barriers continue to be raised. However, the Hawke government has put its policies where its mouth is in the case of Broken Hill Proprietary (BHP), which was given a package of bonuses and market-share guarantees, but in exchange for promises of \$A800m investment over five years and specified productivity gains, to which unions have agreed. The target is 250 tonnes per man-year, compared with an indicative 230 tonnes at last June. Further ahead, BHP has its sights on a figure of 280 tonnes, on a par with some Japanese mills.

Inflation is forecast to fall from about 11 per cent to 7.5 per cent on the consumer price index (cpi), largely through the lagged effects of wage pause in the first-half of 1983. The cpi forecast is misleading because the budget shifts some health costs from the private sector to the government, and the inflation outlook using the broader-based deflator is a less rosy 11 per cent. One reason for the high rate, well above that of Australia's trading partners, is the rise in food prices in the wake of the drought. Another is the rash of state and semi-government price rises for services. The March devaluation is also contributing.

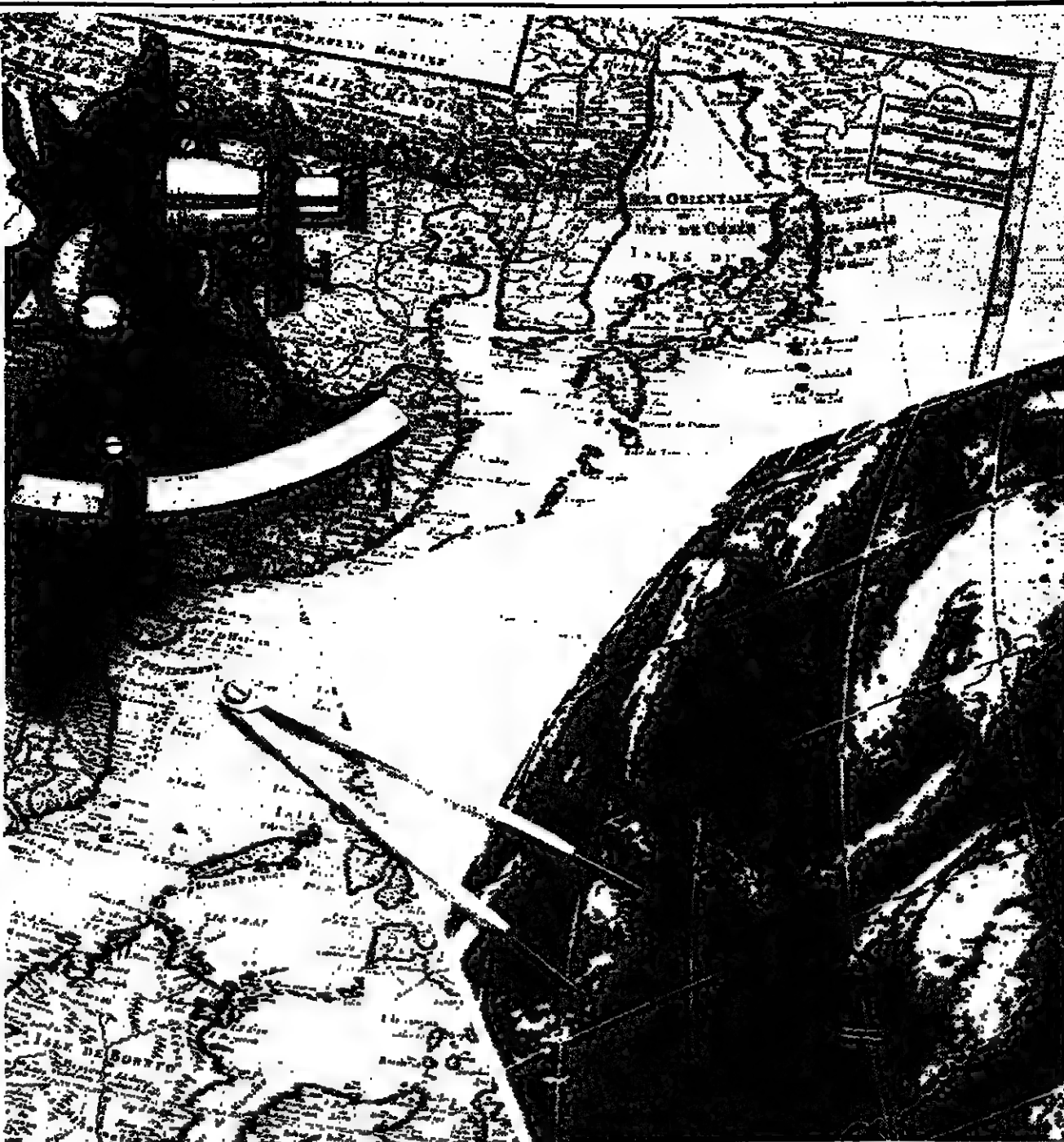
An area of relative policy success has been the exchange rate and balance of payments. Mr Hawke moved decisively by devaluing 10 per cent days after gaining office, partially correcting it for high wages growth (see table).

The effect of the recession in curbing imports has lowered the current account (trade and invisibles) deficit, while capital inflow has remained strong because of the follow-on effects of the 1981 resources boom, high local interest rates, and the perception of the outside world that Australia is not Mexico, Brazil or Argentina.

For the 1983-84, the Treasury forecast is for a further fall in imports and in the current account deficit, a greater fall in capital inflow, and a modest fall in international reserves, which are now high.

The main risk is that the healthy level of capital inflow will evaporate or reverse as a result of such factors as uncontrolled wage growth or government refusal to set interest rates high enough to control monetary growth.

Tony Thomas



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LABOUR COSTS

Rate of growth of average hourly wages (per cent)

Year to	Australia	OECD
December 1982	17.8	5.8
June 1983	10.9	6.5
December 1983*	8.5	6.6
June 1984*	8.4	

* estimated

Source: Victorian Chamber of Manufactures

OVERSEAS LABOUR COSTS

COMPARED WITH AUSTRALIAN (adjusted for exchange rate changes)

Base 1979-80: 1000	
First half of 1980	992
1981	921
1982	875
1983	926
1984*	901

* estimated

Source: Victorian Chamber of Manufactures

AGRICULTURE

Mud's money on the farm

There is a saying on Australian farms that "mud's money". The great drought of 1981-83 ensured little of either. The drought, in conjunction with depressed world prices and high cost inflation, lopped real incomes from farming by 53 per cent in 1982-83, the biggest fall by far in 30 years.

The good rains in the past few months (too good along the Queensland border, which was flooded) make a record wheat harvest likely in 1983-84. For farming as a whole, incomes are forecast by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics to rise by 110 per cent to \$A4,400m (£2,619m), with rural exports to rise by 10 per cent to about \$A3,000m.

In more detail, crop production should rise by 48 per cent, with prices up 6 per cent, while a 4 per cent drop in livestock products will be easily offset by a rise of 20 per cent in prices. The output figures are all conservative owing to the recent upgrading of forecasts of the wheat harvest, which should top 18 million tonnes, about double last year's.

On top of this, for the first time in the 1980s, the rural "terms of trade" are moving in farmers' favour, with prices forecast to increase by 15 per cent against a rise of only 8 per cent in farm costs.

The bureau expects wool auction prices to rise by 14 per cent in 1983-84, provided recovery in the United States continues.

As a result of the drought's after-effects beef supplies to market are diminishing as farmers rebuild their herds. Prices are consequently up, by 39 per cent, but value of meat production and export are expected to decline.

Sugar prices have been at rock-bottom on world markets, but recent growing conditions in the northern hemisphere have been poor and since mid-year, sugar prices have turned up. The bureau forecasts that sugar exports should rise by 5 per cent to \$A615m despite a 16 per cent drop in the value of exports. However, the growing conditions in Queensland have been dry and the harvest volume will decline.



Stock deaths last year have led to a rise in meat prices

tration Commission to defer for six months the flow on of a \$A14-a-week pay rise to farm workers, having argued incapacity to pay. And the Australian Wool Corporation used its bargaining power to negotiate cuts in Australia-Europe wool freight rates.

In the long term, Australia's export-oriented rural sector faces a marketing problem. In the 1970s there was a rapid rise in wheat traded on world markets as the centrally-planned economies moved to improve their people's diet. High grain prices, however, also drove many importers into successful programmes towards self-sufficiency, to the extent that the only markets for Australia now with potential for

high imports are South America and Africa, neither with capacity to pay for them.

Australia had done well in meeting the high Middle East demand for grain. Even now, in the worst of circumstances, it is still selling a million tonnes a year to both Iraq and Iran.

EEC wheat export tonnages, which stood at 5 to 7 million tonnes a year in the 1970s and reached 10 million tonnes in 1979-80, have tumbled to an estimated 14 million tonnes in 1982-83, giving Australian growers something to think about.

Australian producers' hostility towards the European Community is at first glance surprising, since there is little direct competition for sales. But

producers have two grounds for concern. First, subsidized exports drive down prices generally. Secondly, when the EEC and the United States conduct a price war, with each other, smaller fry like Australia are trampled underfoot.

In wheat, direct Australia-EEC competition is occurring in China, where the EEC offers freight and other subsidies. This helped put nearly 900,000 tonnes into China in the second half of last year. Australia has an agreement with China for 1.5 to 2.5 million tonnes of wheat a year, subject to price, and last year no sales resulted because of a price disagreement.

The EEC also causes Australia problems with subsidized flour sales to Sri Lanka, forcing other suppliers into markets served by the Australians.

As far as sugar is concerned, Australian growers are fed up with what they see as the undermining by the EEC of the International Sugar Agreement (ISA), of which the European Community is not a member. Australia, a low-cost producer with a lot of reserve capacity, has been limiting its exports only to see the EEC take advantage of this forbearance with big rises in its uncompetitive beet sugar industry.

WORLD WHEAT PRODUCTION & TRADE

	(million tonnes)			
	10-year average 1972/73 to 1981/82		1982/83 estimate	
	Prod.	Trade	Prod.	Trade
Argentina	7.7	3.4	14.5	8.0
Australia	12.5	9.1	8.7	8.0
Canada	18.7	14.2	27.6	20.0
EEC	44.3	8.0	58.5	14.0
USA	55.7	34.1	78.4	41.5
Total major exporters	138.9	68.8	188.7	93.5
World total	408.8	74.8	476.3	98.7

Source: International Wheat Council

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MINING

Digging deeper for new markets

Even a limited inspection of Australia's vast mineral and mining industries can be a daunting task which takes you across the continent, sometimes through inhospitable and barely accessible regions.

However, the heady days of far-flung and enthusiastic development are over for the time being and "quarry" Australia, with its resources exposed to domestic and world pressures, is having to face up to tough times. A visitor to iron and coal mines these days finds much belt-tightening and fretting about cutbacks.

"This is one of the most difficult times in our history," says Mr John Wruck, a senior executive of Utah Development Company, the biggest coal producer in Australia, which is about to be taken over by Australia's largest industrial company, Broken Hill Proprietary (BHP).

The immediate problems are largely the result of a prolonged worldwide recession. The iron ore and coal businesses have been especially hard-hit. Other metals - Australia produces aluminium, bauxite, antimony, asbestos, chrysotile, bismuth, copper, gold, lead, manganese, mineral sands, natural gas, nickel, phosphate, silver, tin, tungsten, uranium and zinc - have suffered in varying degrees.

Australia, however, faces a longer-term challenge, so far tackled only half-heartedly. Since none of its resources monopolize the world market, the country must open up new markets and maintain its international cost competitiveness in old ones, at a time when whatever advantages it once possessed are being whittled away by newcomers.

Australian miners are hampered by high inflation (still double-digit), a flexible labour force organized along Byzantine lines which at the same time tends to promote industrial unrest, and governments - state and federal - which have strongly supported development, but which at the same time tend to consider underground resources as a cornucopia created for tax purposes only.

The problems include high levels of direct taxation, and indirect levies such as high rail



costs on state-operated, though sometimes privately financed, rail links. The current federal government would like to rationalize the taxation of resources, and has proposed a resource rent tax in vague terms, which could be based on, say, a minimum rate of return on investments.

The intention in theory would be to replace other, somewhat arbitrary, tax schemes which now exist. State governments, however, are reluctant to turn more control of taxes over to the federal government. And businessmen fear that any new tax plan, despite good intentions, will result ultimately in more and not less taxes.

Australian businessmen can no longer be complacent about their ability to market what they can mine. Gone are the days when billion-dollar development efforts could be supported on the basis of long-term contracts with Japan. Japan's steel and power industries are pressing hard to cut back and save on contracts. Australian businessmen are having to sharpen their negotiating skills. They are also scrambling to diversify into new markets, none of which looks quite as fat and profitable as in the past.

New and old customers are becoming more fickle about quality control and consistency of supplies. Miners must know these days about technology than simply how to dig the raw material out of the ground.

From the coastal town of Karatha, built to support mine development in Western Australia's arid northwest, a twin-engine Beechcraft takes about 40 minutes to cross a seemingly endless reddish-brown expanse of desolate wilderness, dotted with scrubby brush and heat-baked gum trees, to arrive in iron ore country.

The destination, Hamersley Iron's Mount Tom Price, the richest deposit of ore in the Pilbara, looms below like a massive rust-coloured sandcastle. Its man-made contours testify to tens of millions of tons of ore which have already been carried by train nearly 250 miles to a seaport, and then to blast furnaces, mainly in Japan.

Hamersley is operating at 36 million tons a year, against a peak of 39 million tons in 1980, and its sales are running at only 31 million tons. Paradoxically, recent industrial disputes stoppages have posed the problem of maintaining enough stocks, more than 60 per cent of which go to Japan, to load onto incoming ore carriers at the port of Dampier.

More than 1,800 miles to the east, in the sprawling Bowen basin of Queensland, one of the largest coal discoveries in the world is being systematically dug from the earth. However, production at Utah Development's Harrow Creek is being deliberately restrained because of low demand for coking coal in Japan.

Production of the easily accessible coal, nearest the surface, is also down. Utah's production is running 6.5 million tons below its 22 million tons of annual capacity. Though sales are inching up, reducing stocks somewhat, mines are faced with the prospect of 20 million tons of new annual capacity of coal coming on stream in Canada and elsewhere around the world by next year, further tipping the scales against producers.

About half a dozen new mines are in Australia itself, where a surge in demand from Japan since the 1970s encouraged a massive amount of investment for both coking coal, used to make steel, and steaming coal as an energy alternative to oil.

The poor market situation was certainly borne out in price negotiations with Japan this year, when contract prices were about 20 per cent below last year. Negotiations on longer-term contracts now coming into force are due shortly, and Japan is putting on pressure for price reductions on these as well.

Australian miners are not pessimistic about their long-term prospects. Fortunately, the country has virtually unlimited supplies of high-quality minerals. The key, however, lies in Australia's ability to bring under control the excesses and bad habits of the past.

Richard Hanson

RACING

No horsing around Down Under

When Robert Sangster, the British millionaire racehorse owner, first arrived in Australia about 10 years ago, he thought it rather quaint that the country's biggest race was a two-mile handicap.

Mr Sangster, by his own admission, had a bit to learn about Australians and their racing and it took him until 1980, when he won the Melbourne Cup, to fully understand. He described the discovery, that day at Flemington racecourse, as "the thrill of my life".

"This is better than Epson of Paris," he said. "This is a win of the heart. That's what the Melbourne Cup is all about - tradition and feeling."

The Cup is indeed the heartbeat of Australian racing, even though it is common for horses with the limited ability of Mr Sangster's Beldale Ball to win. The Derby and other three-year-old classics are of course important, but not in the way that they are in almost every other country in the world. Comparisons between Australia and elsewhere are virtually useless because racing, and the way it is approached, is so different.

Consider the following:

● Weight-for-age (wfa) racing may be the most glamorous section of the sport, but it still does not have the general appeal of a major handicap. More than once in recent years Australia's best horses, with a string of wfa victories behind them, have not been able to win full public acclaim until providing themselves in major handicaps.

● Most of the big race winners, including two champions of the last decade, Manikato and Kingston Town, are geldings. It seems that a colt only has to win a couple of two-year-old races, and he is syndicated and sent to stud without proving himself over a distance.

● Because of the emphasis on speed at stud, if a horse does appear to win major staying races he is often snubbed by breeders.

Australians love their horses. With more than 50 racetracks in the state of Victoria alone and hundreds throughout the country there is little chance of escape from horse talk, either in the city or in the remotest outback area.

It is in the tiny bush towns that the character of racing is often at its strongest. Walk into any pub and it is odds on that on the wall will be a photo of a horse winning a race, sometimes even a wall covered in



Neck and neck at Newcastle race course, NSW

photos. If the public doesn't own the horse himself, perhaps it belongs to the cousin of the wife of the publican's best friend.

Off-course Totalisator Agency Boards (TABs) are situated in every large suburb and town, providing an ever increasing range of services. What started as sombre, tiny buildings requiring best to be placed at least half an hour before a race and payouts held over to the next day, have become colourful places with betting up to the start of race, immediate payouts, televisions and display of approximate dividends.

There is also saturation coverage by the media. Daily newspapers provide fields and riders for every meeting on which the TAB operates and produce a full form guide for the main meeting. The Melbourne evening paper, *The Herald*, publishes a 12-page guide to all Saturday meetings on Friday nights and the morning papers produce four-page editions. All that is on top of the myriad strictly racing publications.

More and more meetings are now being televised live but more importantly, every single race on which the TAB operates is broadcast live on radio. Saturday morning radio, in mind-boggling, one station starts at 8 am with a half-hour preview recorded the day before. At 8.30 am, the preview live, commences up-to-date information on runners, a track report and reports of weekly gallops. That lasts half an hour, and then it is time for the official scratchings and bookmakers' markets.

At 9.30 am the scratchings are checked again and another preview given. At 10 am it is time for the scratchings again and then a talk-back show, with callers asking racing questions to a panel of experts. Then the scratchings and markets are checked. The talk-back show then resumes, while about midday, when the scratchings are checked once again. After that comes another preview with the same previewer offering the same tips.

Once racing starts, up to 40 races an afternoon are broad-

cast with TAB approximate odds given every ten minutes or so. At the end of the day there is a review and soon after comes a preview for the harness racing and greyhound meetings that night.

Australian racing, in many ways, is a game for young men and for people who have never had much luck. The foresight of Mr Sangster enabled him to penetrate the industry so quickly, that in only a few years he became the biggest owner in the country. But there are literally thousands of small owners.

The best example again comes from Mr Sangster. One of his early visits he strolled into a Melbourne hotel and was asked by the porters how they should go about leasing a horse. Owners in Australia are spread throughout the community. Even porters can race horses.

In Australia, leasing is common and small syndicates have become the rage. In some instances, with the right provincial trainer, you can pay little more than \$A20 a week for a sixth share in a horse capable of winning in the metropolitan area. Stakes are good.

Said Mr Sangster: "You can buy a yearling for \$A30,000 to \$A40,000 (£17,850 to £23,800) with a very good chance of earning that money on the racetrack. One in a hundred could do that in Europe."

There are even better examples. Manikato, the outstanding Australian sprinter of the last two years and winner of more than \$A1 million in stake money, cost \$A3,500 as a yearling. Kingston Town, winner of close to \$A2 million and Australian record holder, was offered for sale as a yearling and could not reach his reserve of \$A5,000.

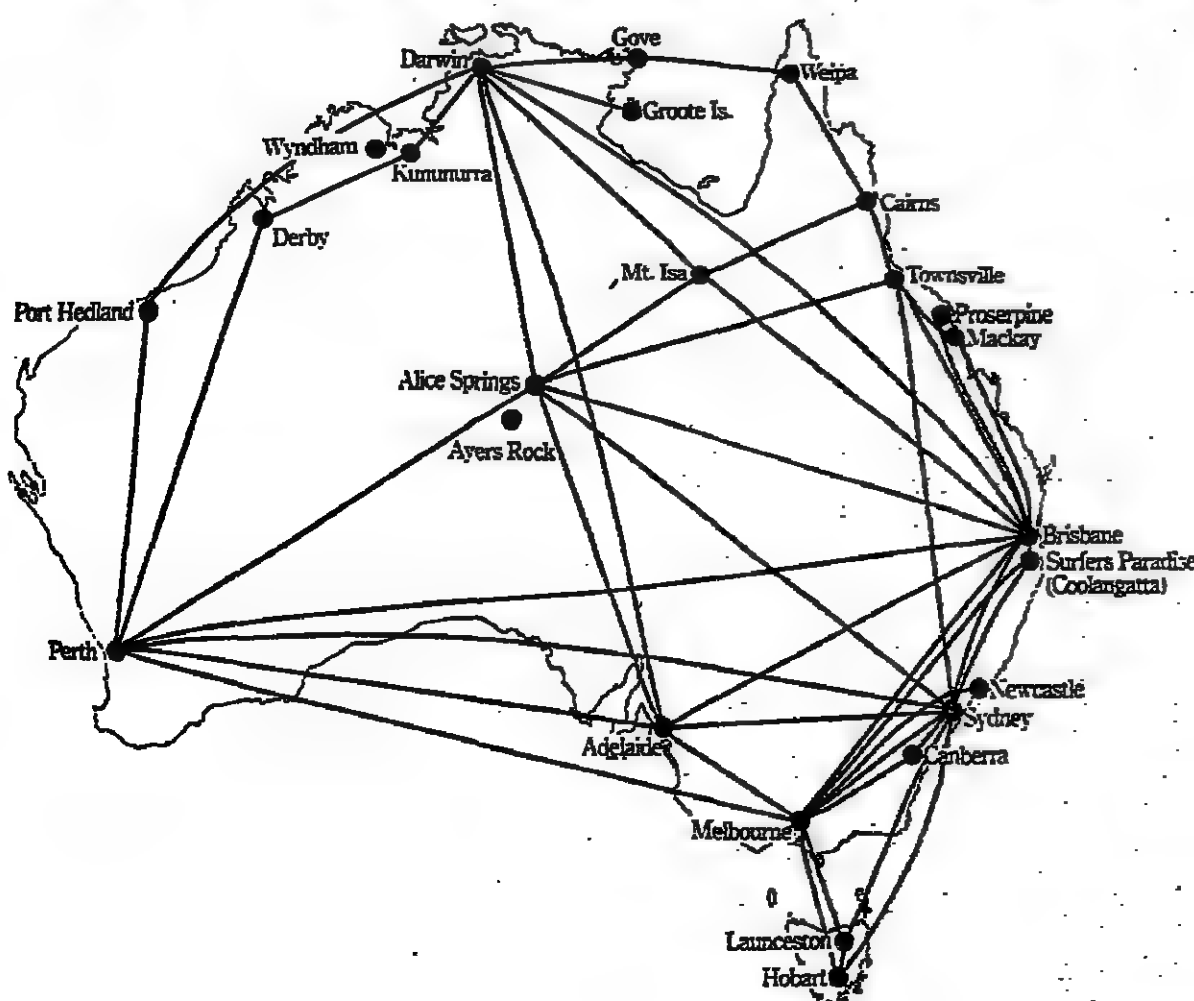
Three years ago Mr Sangster found out first-hand about the opportunities for even the cheapest horses. He owned the favourite for Victoria's premier sprint, the Newmarket, but his runner, Sportsman, could finish only second to one of the rank outsiders, Dor Kon.

Dor Kon's sire had earlier been banished to the outback to sire stock horses. Dor Kon was to have been sent to Hongkong, untraced, yet a betting trainer, who rarely had city runners let alone winners, liked the look of the unfashionable gelding and paid the princely sum of \$A250 for him.

It is results like that which lead many to the conclusion that Australian racing provides value for money. Australians may do things in strange ways compared to Europe, but they do them well.

Mark Harding

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Investment and Finance

City Editor
Anthony Hilton

THE TIMES

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STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index 698.2 up 2.9
FT 100 Index 61.66 up 0.22
FT All Share 439.42 down 1.53
Bargains 19,819
New York Dow Jones
Average 1272.66 down 1.98
Tokyo Nikkei Dow Jones
Index 9,483.09 down 69.39
Hongkong Hang Seng
Index 735.36 down 18.60
Amsterdam 152.8 up 1.4
Sydney AO Index 704.7
down 2.5
Frankfurt Commerzbank
Index 969.30 down 1.10
Brussels General Index
128.79 up 0.06
Paris CAC Index 141.3 up 0.4
Zurich SCA General 289.3
unchanged

CURRENCIES

LONDON
Sterling \$1.5065 down 40pts
Index 83.7 down 0.2
DM 3.90 down 0.125
Fr 11.9150 down 0.0550
Yen 350 down 2.0
Dollar
Index 125.7 up 0.1
DM 2.5775

NEW YORK

Sterling \$1.5070
Dollar DM 2.5885
ECU 0.577547
SDR 0.710333

INTEREST RATES

Domestic interest
Bank base rates 9
Finance houses base rate 10
Discount market loans week
fixed 9
3 month interbank 9 1/8-9 1/4
Euro currency rates
3 month dollar 9 1/8-9 1/4
3 month DM 5 1/4-5 1/2
3 month Fr 15 1/4-15 1/2
US rates
Bank prime rate 11.00
Fed funds 9 1/4
Treasury long bond 102 1/4-102 1/2
ECB Fixed Rate Sterling
Export Finance Scheme IV
Average reference rate for
interest period September 7, to
October 4, 1983 inclusive:
9.719 per cent.

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):
am \$400.50 pm \$399
close \$398.25-399 (\$264-264.50)
New York latest \$399
Krugman (per coin):
\$411-413 (\$272.50-273.50)
Sovereigns (new):
\$84-95 (\$22-23)
*Excludes VAT

ANNUAL MEETINGS

Waring & Gifford (Holdings),
Hallam Tower Hotel, Sheffield
(noon).
McKay Securities, 18 Park-
side, Knightsbridge (noon).
Star Computer, 84 Great
Eastern Street EC2 (10am).
Spear (J. W.) & Sons, Richard
House, Green Street, Enfield
(noon).

TODAY

Interlimes: Ash & Lacy, R
Cartwright Holdings, Cass
Group, First Castle Electronics,
Fogarty, Greenbank, Industrial
Holdings, Helene of London,
London Sumatra Plantations,
Steel Brothers Holdings, Spirax-Sarco Engineering, United
Parcels, J O Walker and Co.
Finals: Armo Trust, Bejam
Group, CPU Computers, T C
Harrison, Pochin's, Scottish
Metropolitan Property.

NOTEBOOK

Ward White Group, the retail
footwear and manufacturing
group, yesterday announced
details of a £10.7m rights issue.
The company also announced a
40 per cent increase in pretax
profits to £2.1m in the six
months to June 30. Page 22

Pretax profits at Waterford
Glass, the Irish glass and
chinaware company, rose by 15
per cent to IR£3.8m in the
six months to June 30. The
company was helped by im-
proved sales in the United
States. Page 22

● FMC, Britain's largest
slabhouse group which is
still considering a management
buy-out offer, has sold its
Northern Ireland meat plant at
Newry to the Anglo Irish Meat
Company for £430,000 cash.
Stocks are raising another
£230,000 in cash.
In a full year this is expected
to contribute about £68,000 to
FMC's pretax profits compared
to a pretax and interest loss
of £547,000 in the last full year.

State spending and borrowing still racing ahead

Money growth on target as M3 falls for first time in four years

By Frances Williams, Economics Correspondent

The Government's main measure of money, supply, sterling M3, fell last month for the first time in more than four years to bring monetary growth back on target.

But Government spending and borrowing are still running well over planned levels. The emergency measures announced by Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, in July to cut borrowing by £1,000m this year have yet to bite.

The Bank of England said yesterday that sterling M3 fell by a provisional 0.5 per cent in the five weeks to mid-September. This was the first drop since March 1979. Since February, sterling M3 has risen at an annual rate of 9.75 per cent, well within the 7 to 11 per cent target band, and sharply down from last month's annualized rate of 12.4 per cent.

After rapidly accelerating monetary growth in the spring, the last three months have seen almost no increase in sterling M3, as government borrowing has slowed and the authorities have stepped up sales of gilts to mop up excess cash.

Growth of the other money measures has also slackened,

MONEY GROWTH

	Sept 83	Feb-Sept 83
M3	-0.5%	11%
M4	-0.5%	9%
M2	+0.5%	13%

target band Feb 83-April 84 at annual rate 7-11

Source: Bank of England

although they remain above target.

The authorities have made it clear that last week's 0.5 per cent cut in interest rates, which

came after the Bank had received early intimation that the money supply figures would be good, would be the last for some while.

They are anxious to keep monetary growth within the target range over the coming months, at a time when borrowing from the banks is likely to remain buoyant and the Government must sell a lot of gilts just to replace maturing debt.

According to the London clearing banks, however, lending was modest last month, with almost all of it accounted for by

CENTRAL GOVERNMENT BORROWING REQUIREMENT

	Monthly total £m	Cumulative total £m
1982-83	2,813	12,813
March 1983-84	1,192	1,192
April	1,717	2,909
May	2,547	5,456
June	932	6,388
July	1,299	7,687
Aug	1,155	8,842
Sept		

Source: Treasury

personal borrowers, half of this for house purchases.

Bank lending overall is expected to total less than £1,000m when the final figures are announced next week, compared with £1,226m in August.

Heavy government borrowing has also proved a problem for monetary control. In the first six months of the 1983-84 financial year, central government borrowed £8,842m, compared with £5,955m over the same period last year. In September alone, central government borrowed £1,155m compared with £307m a year earlier.

Much of this extra borrowing has replaced loans from private sources, neutralizing its effects on public sector borrowing overall (which includes borrowing by central government, town halls and state industries from all sources).

But spending by government departments is also running well above plans, up by 9.4 per cent in the first six months of 1983-84 from a year earlier, compared with a Budget forecast for growth of only 5.4 per cent.

CBI chief still pessimistic on recovery

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

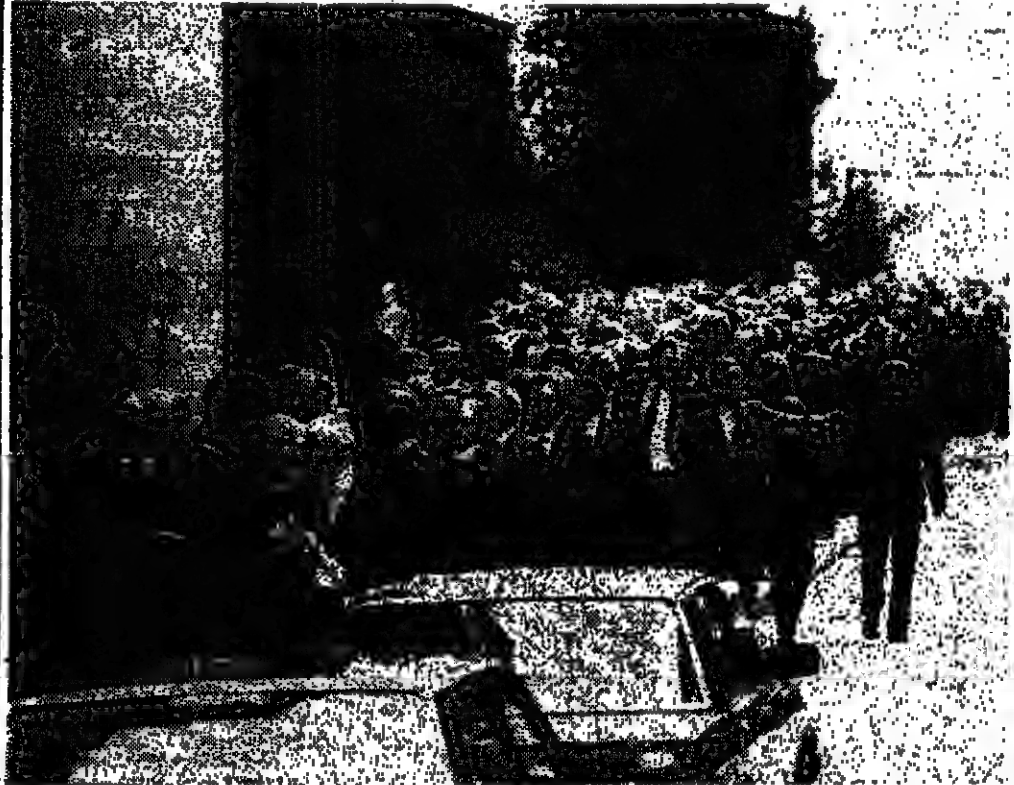
Sir Terence Beckett, director general of the Confederation of British Industry, yesterday warned the Government on the first day of the Conservative Party conference that the recession showed no signs of ending.

Risking ministerial criticism once again, Sir Terence said that overall growth "is going to be very slow".

He said after meeting CBI leaders at Gathead, Tyne and Wear that industrial recovery in the North-east was "at a standstill and prospects were flat. Considerable differences were to be found throughout the country but for every two or three companies showing an increase in business, a further two or three were showing a decrease."

The only bright spots in an otherwise bleak outlook for the North-east were the chemical, car components and building materials sectors. But despite the problems, he said, there was no case for increased regional aid.

Any rise in regional support should go to the West Midlands which was suffering more than elsewhere from recession.



Head count: long and winding queues as brokers flocked to cast their votes in the City yesterday (Photograph: John Voos).

Brokers applaud 'open door' deal

By Wayne Linnott

Stockbrokers yesterday voted overwhelmingly in favour of the deal worked out by the Stock Exchange Council, and the Government to avoid an appearance before the Restrictive Practices Court by the Exchange.

At a packed City meeting yesterday, the largest in the history of the Stock Exchange, 860 members voted in favour, while 63 voted against.

Many of the members - about 1,500 attended - could not get into the 600-seat Charterhouse Institute hall and were left outside.

A poll vote of the entire 4,000 membership was demanded but withdrawn when insufficient

signatories supported the motion. The members were voting on the introduction of lay members to the council and appeals committee and the abolition of fixed commissions.

Sir Nicholas Goodison, chairman of the Stock Exchange, said that the lay members, all of whom have to be approved by the Bank of England, could become senior figures on the council including chairman.

He said that the next step was for the Government to introduce legislation to remove the Exchange from the Restrictive Practices Court.

Sir Nicholas said the result enabled the council to "go

forward doing everything we can to ensure we continue to run a competitive and well regulated central market."

He said the Stock Exchange had been in "an intolerable position" with the restrictive practices case.

The solution was not a question of a good choice or a bad choice, but "an exercise in risk analysis which is something brokers and jobbers are well qualified to undertake", he said.

Of those members voting against, particularly representatives of the smaller companies, some felt that although Sir Nicholas had "won a battle the war would continue", as one said after the meeting.

US 'in line to meet IMF deadline'

From Bailey Morris, Washington

The Reagan Administration is increasingly confident that it will meet the November 30 deadline for approval of the delayed US quota increase for the International Monetary Fund, despite continuing deadlock in Congress.

Mr Reagan said yesterday that the US Treasury Secretary, Mr Regan, said he now expects Congress to pass legislation authorizing America's \$8.4 billion share of the badly-needed quota increase by early next month.

Appearing much more confident of passage than at the recently concluded IMF annual meetings, Mr Regan said the administration's behind-the-scenes negotiating with key members of Congress is having a favourable effect.

Specifically, he indicated that appeals from other Governments of considerable upheaval in the international banking system,

have prompted a growing number of reluctant Congressmen to change their minds.

Mr Regan indicated that with a little more arm-twisting he expected the legislation to be stripped of some crippling, politically-motivated amendments which are unacceptable to both the administration and the IMF and have, therefore, prevented a final vote.

Both houses of Congress have passed legislation approving the increased funds but the Bills differ considerably and leaders of both parties have been unable to resolve their differences in conference.

The IMF has set a November 30 deadline for member nations to approve the quota increase.

In recent weeks, top administration officials, including President Reagan, have been contacting members of Congress to urge them to resolve their differences and approve the legislation speedily.

Stocks hit by oil crisis fear

New York (AP-Dow Jones) - Wall Street stocks, depressed by the prospect of a Middle East oil crisis, were broadly lower in heavy early trading yesterday.

The Dow Jones industrial average was down about 7 points after falling 8.33 in the morning.

However, among the second tier of issues prices weakened with declining issues ahead of advances two to one.

Although many oil analysts discount serious effects of Iran's

threat to block oil shipments in the Persian Gulf, spot crude prices have risen sharply and that has given the stock market the jitters.

Leading oils were down, with Exxon at 38down 1/4, Phillips at 35 1/2 down 1/4, Texaco at 36 1/2 down 1/4, Atlantic Richfield at 47 1/2 down 1/4, and Standard of California at 36 1/2 down 1/4.

International Paper at 55 1/2 was up 1/4, Modular Computer Systems at 9 1/2 was down 1/4, Warner Communications at 22 was down 1/4, Boeing at 42 1/2 was down 1/4, Northrop at 82 was up 1/4, Comdisco at 23 was down 1/4, Hospital Corporation of America at 47 1/2 was up 1/4, American Medical International at 31 1/2 was down 1/4, and Levi Strauss at 47 1/2 was down 1/4.

IBM at 133 1/2 was down 1/4, General Motors at 77 was down 1/4, Merck at 102 1/2 was down 1/4, American Express at 39 1/2 was down 1/4.

WALL STREET

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threat to block oil shipments in the Persian Gulf, spot crude prices have risen sharply and that has given the stock market the jitters.

Leading oils were down, with Exxon at 38down 1/4, Phillips at 35 1/2 down 1/4, Texaco at 36 1/2 down 1/4, Atlantic Richfield at 47 1/2 down 1/4, and Standard of California at 36 1/2 down 1/4.

International Paper at 55 1/2 was up 1/4, Modular Computer Systems at 9 1/2 was down 1/4, Warner Communications at 22 was down 1/4, Boeing at 42 1/2 was down 1/4, Northrop at 82 was up 1/4, Comdisco at 23 was down 1/4, Hospital Corporation of America at 47 1/2 was up 1/4, American Medical International at 31 1/2 was down 1/4, and Levi Strauss at 47 1/2 was down 1/4.

IBM at 133 1/2 was down 1/4, General Motors at 77 was down 1/4, Merck at 102 1/2 was down 1/4, American Express at 39 1/2 was down 1/4.

All clear for laundry bid battle

By Philip Robinson

Mr Cecil Parkinson, Secretary for Trade and Industry, yesterday ended one takeover battle for control of a laundry group and opened another.

He cleared two interrelated takeovers of any Monopolies Commission investigation. This means Pritchard Services, a contract cleaning group, may take control of Spring Grove and that Bregreen (Holdings), Pritchard's rivals in the cleaning business, may pursue its £31.5m takeover of Sunlight Services, without fear of a Government investigation.

Sunlight had itself been a rival to Pritchard in a bitter battle for control of Spring Grove. Bregreen had made clear that it would not proceed with its offer had Sunlight bought Spring Grove.

In his statement, Mr Parkinson said effectively that as Pritchard had won, there was no need to make a formal statement on the Sunlight offer.

However, had there been, the

LAUNDRY INDUSTRY TAKEOVERS

	Predator	Target	Value	Result
1982				
June	Spring Grove	St George's	£7.5m	completed
July	Sunlight	Johnson Group	£30m	MMG blocked
Initial		Johnson Group		MMG blocked
1983				
August	Pritchard	Spring Grove	£15m	completed
	Sunlight	Sunlight	£21m	lost
	Bregreen	Sunlight	£31m	undecided

merger would have been referred for investigation.

Indications that this would be the case filtered through from the Office of Fair Trading to Sunlight early last month. And last year the Monopolies Commission blocked rival takeovers of Johnson Group Cleaners by Sunlight and Initial and made it clear that takeovers of the top six laundry businesses by one of them would likely attract a further investigation.

Both Sunlight and Spring Grove are among the top half dozen laundry companies.

Sunlight's price rose 25p on the stock market last night to

240p. Bregreen's rose 8 1/2p to 100p. At that price Bregreen's five for two share swap values Sunlight at 250p.

On its first closing date a fortnight ago, Bregreen's offer had attracted acceptances of just 3.7 per cent of Sunlight's equity.

Mr David Evans, Bregreen chairman, said yesterday: "That was before everything was much clearer. Our offer was conditional on Sunlight not winning Spring Grove."

"I think we will now succeed with our bid for Sunlight. We have time to increase the offer under the rules, and we will if we feel it is necessary."

STEETLEY

CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS, MINERALS AND REFRACTORIES

Interim report for six months ended 30th June 1983

Pretax profits increased by 60%

Earnings per share up 80%

	Half-year to 30th June 1983	Half-year to 30th June 1982	Year to 31st December 1982
Turnover	196,782	226,870	420,169
Surplus before taxation	8,662	5,441	9,351
Net earnings per ordinary share	7.72p	4.26p	7.41p

The profit before taxation for the first half of 1983 was 60 per cent. higher than for the same period last year. Earnings per share increased by 80 per cent. and exceeded those for the whole of last year. A reduction in interest paid of £1.5 million resulted from the combined effects of lower interest rates and much reduced borrowings.

All major activities in the United Kingdom have improved their profits. Whilst the market in building bricks showed a marked upturn, the profit improvement in other construction materials and refractories owes more to increased efficiency than to greater volume.

Investment in our core activities continues. A new brick plant at Bishop Auckland was brought on stream during the period. Construction of a new clay tile plant has started in order to meet increasing demand.

The Australian operations are now confined to mineral extraction and processing which have latterly shown some improvement. The North American mineral operations also improved their performance as the period progressed.

The increased final dividend which will be recommended to shareholders will be quantified when the results for the full year can be considered.

These results demonstrate that the effect of the actions taken to improve profitability are now beginning to show through. When this is coupled with the improved trading conditions which in recent months have become evident in some areas, then we are justifiably confident about the outlook for the remaining part of this year, as well as for 1984.

David Donne, Chairman



Steetley plc, P.O. Box 6, Geteford Hill, Workshop, Notts. S81 8AF

Peculiar quarrel at Theakston's

By Derek Pain

A peculiar takeover brew was fermenting yesterday at the Yorkshire brewery of T. and R. Theakston, the 150-year-old company famed for its Old Peculiar strong beer.

Theakston is a public but unquoted company which is 48 per cent owned by the London Trust, once one of Britain's more adventurous investment trusts but now busy reducing its involvement.

Last month, The Times disclosed that Mr Michael Abrahams, famed for revitalizing the AW (Securities) carpet group in the 1960s, had agreed to acquire much of the London Trust shareholding and planned to "underwrite a rights issue which would have given him control."

But Mr Abrahams, it seems, was not to the taste of Mr Paul Theakston, the company chairman and a member of the founding family.

He was so upset by the Abrahams scheme that he approached Matthew Brown, the Blackburn-based brewery which has been pushing into Yorkshire.

Mr Patrick Townsend, Brown's chairman, produced an offer which, it seems, is not far removed from Theakston's £2.4m asset value and which won over London Trust and at least some members of the Theakston family. As a result, Matthew Brown was set to gain control - or was it?

For Theakston shares contain special, pre-exemption rights which, in effect, mean that existing shareholders must first offer their shares to other shareholders before selling to an outsider.

This arrangement was designed to prevent the company falling into the hands of an unwelcome bidder.

The Brown deal is conditional on the problems created by these provisions being surmounted. Yesterday, it was by no means certain that these difficulties would be resolved, although there are signs that now the Theakston conflict has come into the open, other bidders will be tempted to try their luck.

Theakston is a great beer name and all this activity could well lead to the sort of auction

most family controlled companies seek to avoid.

There were suggestions that at least two other breweries had expressed interest in the company, which has a brewery at Masham, another at Carlisle, and 10 pubs.

Theakston, which named its prized beer after an ancient ecclesiastic court which used to meet at Masham, achieved profits of about £275,000 from sales of £9m in its last financial year.

But it has clearly found the going tough in recent years and could do with a helping hand.

London Trust's managing director, Mr Henry Berens, admits he has changed sides because the Matthew Brown offer is higher.

Wavy Line and Mace shops to be merged

By Derek Harris
Commercial Editor

Booker McConnell, whose retailing division includes the Budeen supermarkets chain, is to amalgamate its interests in the Mace and Wavy Line grocery shops.

Marketing changes for Mace and Wavy Line have yet to be decided. Both names are expected to be kept and it is likely that there will be a combined Mace-Wavy Line logo for shop fronts.

The names are also likely to be retained for own-label lines in the shops. There are about 2,800 Mace retailers and 80 per cent of them are supplied by Booker McConnell, whose chairman is Mr Michael Caine.

Other wholesalers supply Mace outlets in Northern Ireland, northern Scotland and East Anglia. These as well as the retailers will be involved in talks on combining the names.

Abbott: New chief.

All 1,000 Wavy Line retailers are already under the Booker umbrella since Booker's took over Kinloch the wholesalers which developed the chain.

Mr Derek Abbott, who has been in charge of Wavy Line will be chief executive of the combined groups.

Mace and Wavy Line account for about 1.5 per cent of the packaged groceries market in England, Wales and Scotland. The Spar chain is the largest of the symbol groups with rather more than 2.5 per cent market share.

Independent grocers, including the symbol groups, have been losing market share for years. In 1980 their share was about 14 per cent, but this has now become about 10 per cent.

But the symbol groups have been fighting back with increased promotional campaigns and shop improvements.

INVESTORS' NOTEBOOK • edited by Michael Prest

In-fighting overshadows sugar price talks

Sugar prices have shown a certain resilience in the aftermath of the in-fighting which took place over the recent Geneva talks on the future of the International Sugar Agreement, but it seems unlikely that the price will rise much above its present range of 9 cents to 12 cents a pound.

This is hardly an encouraging background for the negotiations between key members of the ISA, due to resume in London next month.

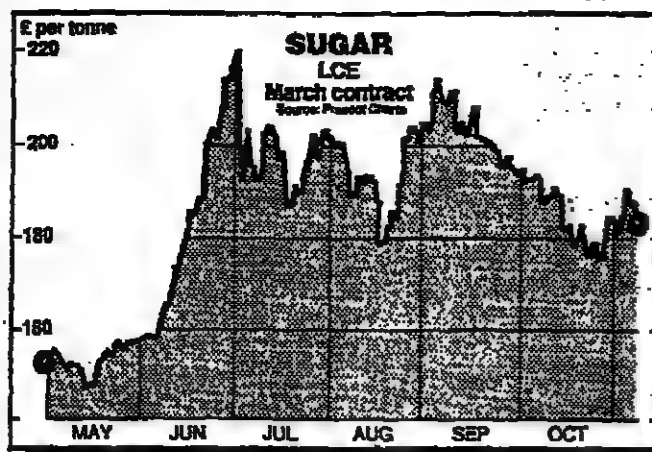
In this market, at least, the fundamentals appear to hold sway reasonably. After surpluses of just under 9 million tonnes in 1981-82 and 6.5 million tonnes in 1982-83, the present crop year should result in a deficit of about 1.5 million tonnes on production of between 92 million and 93 million tonnes.

The outcome is largely the result of bad weather in South Africa, Australia, and the European Community, and might have been expected to push prices up.

But three factors have militated against a price rise. The first is simply that the market has already discounted the possibility of a rare supply deficit. The big surge in the spring, which saw the sugar price almost double from about 6 cents a pound, came after gloomy supply forecasts.

To point out that the rise only just placed sugar within the limits of the ISA is to highlight how desperate was the position.

The second influence is that stocks are at a record. Estimates vary from 36 million to 42 million tonnes, but whatever the true figure they are equivalent to four or five months



supply. And that does not take into account the increasing share of the sweetener market being seized by artificial products.

Both of these factors overshadow the talks in Geneva two weeks ago. So perhaps most decisive has been the market's instinctive scepticism about the nature of new sugar pact.

On the one hand the sugar producers are anxious that the EEC, whose surpluses they blame for undermining the existing agreement, should be party to the pact.

However, the EEC's suggestion that security stocks are necessary to support prices is not welcomed by producers such as Brazil who must sell every grain they grow and can scarcely afford to finance reserves of sugar.

On present showing, politics will dictate that a new agreement is reached, but it will not cause significantly higher prices.

Ward White

Ward White Group
Half-year to 31.7.83
Pretax profit £2.1m (£1.5m)
Stated earnings 3.5p (3.15p)
Turnover £79.2m (£52.7m)
Net interim dividend 1.54p (1.4p)
Share price 98p down 11p Yield Dividend payable 28.11.83

Ward White Group is still looking for retail acquisitions despite its progress in expanding its footwear retail business in the past year.

Yesterday the group announced details of a one-for-three rights issue of 13,109,960 new shares at 45p per share underwritten by Morgan Grenfell to halve its gearing to about 30 per cent of shareholders funds.

The shares dipped by 11p to 98p on the news, but the board said that this was an over-reaction to the expansion in the group's share capital.

A series of meetings have been fixed with brokers to talk

over the problem, which the company believes is due to lack of understanding about the dramatic changes in the past year to Ward's structure.

The extent of the transformation of the group from a shoe manufacturing, distribution and engineering concern to a footwear retailing operation is shown in the interim balance sheet which shows a 40 per cent rise in pretax profits to £2.1m, compared with the same stage last year. Turnover in the six months to June 30 grew by 50 per cent to £79.2m.

Footwear retailing produced 37 per cent of group profits against 7 per cent a year ago. Much of the increase stems from the acquisitions of the Turner and Frisby shoe stores chains in Britain and the addition of the Hoffmeier stores in the US.

This brings the British operation to a £50m a year turnover, 370-store business, with the additional 113 stores in the US.

The shoe retailing trade traditionally provides two-thirds of its profits for the year in the second half which benefits from winter and pre-Christmas trading. This year should be no exception which makes Ward capable of £8m pretax profits at the year-end, putting the company on a prospective fully taxed price earnings ratio of 10.5.

These calculations exclude the possibility of further shoe retailing acquisition. Ward White would like to increase its British retail business by half and double the US retailing operation within the next few years.

The first target could be the Farmers chain, whose management is considering a buyout. But in any event Ward White is planning a fresh image which could mean a change of name to Focus for its Turner and Frisby stores.

The change of name could well come with a City re-rating of the shares to take into account the profit potential of the group.

improvement on last year's final pretax profits of £28.49m unless there is some easing of the world recession and an improvement in consumer spending in the Irish market.

BHP
Mr Robert Holmes & Court's quixotic essay against the mighty Broken Hill Proprietary Company has failed. The Wigmore offer was allowed to lapse yesterday.

Sheer incredulity on the part of the small investors, Bell Group, hoped to woo must have played a part. But had luck also intervened. Not long after the offer was announced, BHP discovered that its 50 per cent of the Jabiru NT/26 block off the Northern Territory might be another Bass Strait. BHP also has stakes in neighbouring properties, and that was enough to push the shares up by A5.3 to just under A13 at the moment.

Since this price is not greatly different from the value of the revised Wigmore offer, BHP shareholders could be forgiven for declining the risk of hitching their star to Mr Holmes & Court's wagon. A political accommodation with the Commonwealth government over steel protection and security better news about the economy tipped the scales.

But using a minnow to catch the BHP pike has been a long nurtured ambition of Mr Holmes & Court and there were hints yesterday that he will be back when circumstances are propitious. By then some might rue the day they did not take a modest share in Bell Group when the chance first arose.

Pretax profits at Waterford Glass increased by 15 per cent to £3.8m (about £3.3m) in the six months to June 30 after a two-year lull in the group's 25-year steady profits growth record.

The main reason for the upturn was the improvement in the contribution from the traditional glass and china trading activities.

High operating costs and declining consumer spending hit demand for the Waterford glassware and the contribution from Smith Group, the Regal distribution, the Switzer Group - the department store, which is 40 per cent owned by the House of Fraser - were also down.

The shares stand unchanged at 21p after yesterday's results and offer an unchanged interim dividend of 0.6p.

But despite the encouraging signs at the halfway stage, investors should not expect any

China set to double British imports

By John Lawless

China opens its Canton trade fair on Saturday for a three-week commodities exhibition at which it expects to sew up deals for a quarter of its annual exports. But its sales drive in Britain has ground to a halt. British imports from China were worth £121m in the first seven months of this year, against £121m in the same period last year.

But there is no question of the talks over Hong Kong's future having soured Sino-British trade relations. For our exports are set to double this year. They were worth £102m to July, compared with £103m for the whole of last year - and the export prospects in several fields look brighter than for five years.

Mr Peter Walker, Energy Secretary, said: "I am delighted to have received an urgent invitation from Tang Ke, Minister for Petroleum and Mineral Resources, to discuss areas in which Britain can develop a close working relationship."

He will be negotiating on coal and gas projects but the deal Britain hopes to land would give it a key role in the South China Sea oil explorations.

Britain's claim to have experience of similar conditions in the North Sea will be reinforced on Sunday, when Mr Qian Qizhong, deputy director of the National Bureau of Oceanography arrives. With seven specialists, he will spend two weeks discussing British environmental control techniques.

In other areas, a science and technology collaboration meeting in China last month has brought mutually fast results. The Chinese are to send a team of five biotechnologists to Britain on November 6, and are seeking cooperation in other extremely well-defined industrial sectors.

These include optical fibres for communications, power grid harmonics (in which the Central Electricity Generating Board is already working), space technology, meteorology and even flame-proofing for diesel engines.

There is now strong evidence to suggest that several British industries have managed to leapfrog the standard techniques of selling to China via general trade fairs.

Fewer companies will be present at this month's Canton fair, even though the Chinese have taken advertisements stating that it is for buying as well as selling. But in February at Tianjin, two hours drive from Peking, there is to be an all-British scientific instruments exhibition.

Aran issue to fund hunt for Irish oil

By Jeremy Warner

Aran Energy, the Irish oil company, yesterday launched an IRE7.6m (£6m) rights issue to help step up its exploration programme in the Celtic Sea where an oil discovery was made recently by Gulf Oil 20 miles off County Waterford.

Aran is offering one new share at 35p (28p sterling for every three shares held. Justifying the exercise, the company said that although further drilling will be required in

Block 49/9 of the Celtic Sea before the commercial prospects of the recent discovery are established, it believed that the odds of further successful exploration in the area had been considerably enhanced.

The directors believe the Gulf Oil find increases the likelihood of discoveries in its 74.7 per cent Marathon royalty area which is located about one mile from the discovery well.

UK 'behind in setting up co-ops'

By Our Commercial Editor

Britain lags behind most European countries in the number of small businesses joining together to market their products, except in agriculture, according to a report published yesterday by the London Enterprise Agency.

But there are signs that this may be changing. The recession has meant that more small businesses are looking at the possibilities of cooperative marketing. It is often the only way to tackle difficult export markets such as the Common countries and the Middle East.

New ventures have included water cooperatives forming to produce mail order catalogues; cooperative franchising for household services; the cooperative setting up of exhibition centres (the Fashion Centre in Hackney is an example); and export marketing for food machinery. Some local authorities have been giving marketing assistance grants.

Much could be learned from the experience of cooperative marketing in the agricultural sector.

The report lists the advantages of cooperative marketing: reduced costs of promotion and distribution; better quality control; better negotiating power and the likelihood of gaining increased market share.

In Britain there are 400 agricultural marketing cooperatives. But Italy has 80,000 cooperatives and joint ventures. Japan has more than 5,000 trading houses and France more than 44,000 cooperatives.

International Kregorand sales rose to 274,520 ounces in September from 107,950 in August. They amounted to only 20,200 ounces in September, 1982.

Pirelli may shed 3,000

Milan (Agencies) - Pirelli

to cut 3,000 jobs at its Pirelli-Biococca tyre plant in Milan. The job losses are part of a restructuring programme involving conversion from nylon-based tyre types to a more modern steel-belt version, the company said.

Negotiations have opened with unions in Rome over the planned job cuts, which will accompany the transfer of manufacture of the tyres from the Biococca plant to a plant in Turin more suited to steel-belt production.

The jobs represent about 10 per cent of Pirelli's workforce in Italy, and about half that of the Biococca plant, which will remain open for other activities.

Pirelli last month reported net profits of 18.8 billion lire (£8m) for the 12 months to the end of April and 21.1 billion for the 14 months to end-June.

International Kregorand sales rose to 274,520 ounces in September from 107,950 in August. They amounted to only 20,200 ounces in September, 1982.

Mergers planned Senior profits halved

By Our Financial Staff

Senior Engineering Group
Half-year to 30.6.83
Pretax profit £1.3m (£2.8m)
Stated earnings 1.08p (£1.75m)
Turnover £28.2m (£40m)
Net interim dividend 0.75p (same)
Share price 19p down 2.5p

Senior Engineering, the Watford group which has been expanding rapidly by acquisition this year, yesterday announced more than halved profits for the six months to the end of June.

Pretax profits fell from £2.8m to £1.3m on sales down from £40m to 36.2m. Trading continues to be unsatisfactory and signs of recovery in the United States and British economies

have had little impact on the group, the company said in a statement. It has nevertheless

left the half-year dividend unchanged at 0.75p.

The directors, including their chairman, Professor Roland Smith, who also runs the House of Fraser department stores group were in a board meeting and unavailable for comment.

At the same time, Senior announced a rationalization moves resulting from its recent acquisition of Green's Economiser Group for £7.5m.

Demand has continued at a low level and margins have been under severe pressure in a number of the group's British companies.

The only divisions in the group to perform well during the half year were light engineering and air conditioning systems.

Bowthorpe results up despite French loss

By Our Financial Staff

Bowthorpe Holdings, the Crawley electrical components manufacturer, increased its pretax profits in the first half of this year despite the recession in France which caused losses at its subsidiary there.

Pretax profits rose from £61.1m to £66.9m on sales up from £34.3m to £41.2m. But the French offshoot, Cie Deutsche SA, reported a loss compared with a profit for the corresponding period last year. It is not expected to make a contribution in the remainder of the year either, despite the remedial action that has been taken.

However, other overseas companies will increasingly benefit from the economic upturn, the company said, while at home the group's order book was substantially higher than at the same time in 1982.

Although price competition is fierce and profit margins are under considerable pressure, the company is confident of another year of advance and increased profits. The half-year dividend has been increased from 1.67p to 1.84p.

The group spent £4.1m in January buying Tempo Instruments and Controls Corporation, a private United States electrical manufacturer.

In the first half of the year, the British companies increased pretax profits by 14 per cent and sales by 15 per cent.

COMPANY NEWS IN BRIEF

Electronic Machine Company
Half-year to 30.6.83
Pretax profit £22.7m (£29.7m)
Stated earnings 0.52p (0.42p)
Turnover £358m (£1,070m)

Energy Services & Electronics
Half-year to 30.6.83
Pretax profit £812,000 (£217,000)
Stated earnings 1.42p (0.37p)
Turnover £3.2m (£2.7m)
Net interim dividend 0.45p (0.4p)

Edinburgh Investment Trust
Half-year to 30.6.83
Net revenue £3.9m (£2.3m)
Turnover £8.5m (£5.1m)
Net interim dividend 1p (0.88p)

Chatterfield Properties
Half-year to 30.6.83
Pretax profit £2.8m (£2.5m)
Stated earnings 6.75p (5.5p)
Turnover £2.2m (£2.5m)
Net interim dividend 3.75p (same)

Midland Harrods Group
Half-year to 29.7.83
Pretax profit £201,000 (£170,000)
Stated earnings 3.5p (3.2p)
Turnover £1.8m (£2.3m)
Net interim dividend 1.25p (same)

William Sindell
Half-year to 30.6.83
Pretax profit £270,000 (£203,000)
Stated earnings 26.2p (20.3p)
Turnover £9m (£13.4m)
Net interim dividend 2p (Nil)

Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	9%
Bancalys	9%
BCA Bank	9%
Cheltenham & Gloucester	9%
Consolidated Crds	9%
Continental Trust	9%
C. Hoare & Co	9%
Lloyds Bank	9%
Midland Bank	9%
Mar. Westminster	9%
TSB	9%
Williams & Glyn's	9%

↑ Market Base Rate.

* 7 day deposits on basis of under £10,000. 14 day deposits on basis of £10,000 and over. 28 day deposits on basis of £10,000 and over.

THEATRES

(continued from page 33)

VALLEY THEATRE, WILM
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DIAL M FOR MURDER
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GREAT & SMALL
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ROBIN COUSINS
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LITTLE LIES
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1962-63	
High, Low, Company	P
80% 50% Murray West	

85	48	Do "B"	1
86	49	New Daries Oil	1
87	18	N Throg Inc ES	1
87	21	Do Cap	1
243	81	New Tokyo	2
228	125	North Atlantic	2
180	123	With Sea Assets	12
227	124	Northern Amer	12
228	71	Oil & Associated	12
181	181	Pennland	12
223	142	Rashburn	12
242	210	Roburn ES	24

742	410	Robeco	15	74
745	400	Hollman Subs	25	77
572	384	Reagents NY	544	78
231	125	R.I.T. & Northern	23	79
194	126	Scot Amer	16	80
118	77	Scot Eastern	12	81
193	124	Scot Invest	18	82
266	148	Scot Mortgage	27	83
186	84	Scot National	16	84

1150	84	Scot Macbush	26
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198	83-2	12. Trusts	16
200	120	Thing Sec-Cap	16
185	107	Thompson Trust	16
144	73	Trans Oceanic	13
120	81	Tribe Inv	7
724	80-2	Trilover Inc	7
443	310	Ua Cap	42
175	102	Ud States Deb	16
94	50	Viking Res	8
60	38	Westpool Inv	8
113	64	Whelan Inv	10

SHIPPING		
7.8	23.5	
4.1	35.2	
3.8	19.7	
0.8	24.3	
3.3	16.6	
6.3	7.5	
5.4	10.6	
4.3	16.7	
4.4	10.5	
3.9	19.7	
1.2	10	
217	127	Ass Brit Ports
900	2954	Brit & Com
825	2694	Caledonia Inv
166	85	Fisher J.
374	33	Jacobs J. I.
180	51	Ocean Trans
295	106	P & O 'Dtd'
MINES		
182	10	Annie Am Coal

2.9	154	15	Angie Am Cam	510
1.8	155	10	Angie Am Cam	510
3.2	156	10	Angie Am Cam	510
1.7	157	10	Angie Am Cam	510
1.7	158	10	Angie Am Cam	510
1.7	159	10	Angie Am Cam	510
1.7	160	10	Angie Am Cam	510
1.7	161	10	Angie Am Cam	510
1.7	162	10	Angie Am Cam	510
1.7	163	10	Angie Am Cam	510
1.7	164	10	Angie Am Cam	510
1.7	165	10	Angie Am Cam	510
1.7	166	10	Angie Am Cam	510
1.7	167	10	Angie Am Cam	510
1.7	168	10	Angie Am Cam	510
1.7	169	10	Angie Am Cam	510
1.7	170	10	Angie Am Cam	510
1.7	171	10	Angie Am Cam	510
1.7	172	10	Angie Am Cam	510
1.7	173	10	Angie Am Cam	510
1.7	174	10	Angie Am Cam	510
1.7	175	10	Angie Am Cam	510
1.7	176	10	Angie Am Cam	510
1.7	177	10	Angie Am Cam	510
1.7	178	10	Angie Am Cam	510
1.7	179	10	Angie Am Cam	510
1.7	180	10	Angie Am Cam	510
1.7	181	10	Angie Am Cam	510
1.7	182	10	Angie Am Cam	510
1.7	183	10	Angie Am Cam	510
1.7	184	10	Angie Am Cam	510
1.7	185	10	Angie Am Cam	510
1.7	186	10	Angie Am Cam	510
1.7	187	10	Angie Am Cam	510
1.7	188	10	Angie Am Cam	510
1.7	189	10	Angie Am Cam	510
1.7	190	10	Angie Am Cam	510
1.7	191	10	Angie Am Cam	510
1.7	192	10	Angie Am Cam	510
1.7	193	10	Angie Am Cam	510
1.7	194	10	Angie Am Cam	510
1.7	195	10	Angie Am Cam	510
1.7	196	10	Angie Am Cam	510
1.7	197	10	Angie Am Cam	510
1.7	198	10	Angie Am Cam	510
1.7	199	10	Angie Am Cam	510
1.7	200	10	Angie Am Cam	510

1.4	10.4	25	64	Dormentalein	515
0.8	36.4	25	74	Doornfontein	515
2.4		31	5	Durban Road	32
1.1	20.1	457	57	Eaz Deaga	32
3.6		170	21	S. Rand Fmp	110
6.9	5.1	140	38	Es Oro M & Sx	266
7.5	12.2	354	50	Esbury Gold	57
8.4	17.7	38	85	F & Geduld	266
	26.8	169	59	Geevor Tin	121
1.1	7.3	30	54	Gencor	116
4.6	10.4	36	19	Goldfields S.A.	178
4.9	8.6	134	15	Goldfields	178
		23	19	Goldfields Gold	178

3.1	235	144	Hampton	Wald	214
2.1	178	94	San Harmony		214
4.0	394	16	Martha	Beest	214
1.6	394	23	Joerg	Con	214
1.6	394	15	San	Wald	214
3.8	347	18	David		214
7.4	347	18	David		214
6.8	307	5	Libano		214
3.7	637	94	Lydenburg	Plat	214
1.2	281	142	MIM	Bridge	214
3.6	31	142	MTD	(Mangula)	214
9.6	36	43	Malaya		214
4.2	462	60	Marjale	Con	214

2.1	28.1	57	13	Metals: Explor	5
4.2	10.3	14	5 th	Middle Wile	210 th
4.2	10.3	854	238	Nimroct	
2.1	10.3	515	180	Nihgate Explor	330 th
2.2	10.3	474	213	Peko Wilsand	490 th
2.1	18.1	98	10 th	Pes Brand	230 th
4.0	18.1	41	3 rd	Pes Sieyn	231 st
4.0	13.6	825	130	Sand Mine Prop.	710 th
5.0	22.0	1110	19	Randomeia	231 st
5.0	22.0	806	114	Renbon	231 st
5.0	22.0	667	436	Ro Tinto Zito	760 th
5.0	22.0	858	114	Rustenburg	760 th

1.3	240	8%	St Helens	234
1.8	10%	3%	Strathairn	234
2.0	623	93	SA Land	234
0.7	47%	104	Southzair	239
5.3	250	123	Sougal Bost	210
0.7	135	100	Tanlong Tm	210
0.7	184	140	Transval Cons	278
2.0	85	20%	Trans Invest	234
0.1	35	17	Wentworth	2104
2.1	10%	20	Wetland Colliery	2104
0.0	235	20	W Bank Cons	278

4.0	11.4	538	54	Manitoba	178
			104	Western Areas	300
2.5	4.1	435	10 ¹ / ₂	Western Deep	234 ¹ / ₂
4.0	21.4	414	12	Western Hedges	234 ¹ / ₂
5.5	8.7	304	152	Western Mining	233
		367	8 ¹ / ₂	Winkelhaak	274
		28	12	Zambia Copper	16

OIL					
5.1	8.3	122	55	Ampol Pet	117
9.23	12.3	83	36	Amyl	60
4.4	28.8				

2.3	71	34	Arco	60
2.9	550	34	Arco Energy	60
2.9	318	210	Atlantic Res	53
2.4	452	280	Brit Borneo	432
2.4	226	178	B.P.	232
2.3	183	106	Burmah	128
1.8	240	117	Burmah Oil	156
1.4	97	60	Caracas Capel	701
0.6	80	36	Century Offs	28
2.3	144	65	Charterhall	114
2.7	169	74	Charterhouse Pet	722
2.1	126	N.A.	Chf Petrols	513
2.1	126	N.A.	Cofins E.	37

4.7	831/4	850	Global Nat Res	440
4.7	107	41	Gael Petroleum	940
4.3	303	148	Imp Cont Gas	29
4.3	135	29	KCA Int.	43
4.3	300	223	Lamco	288
4.3	960	510	Lo Ops	555
3.9	169	65	Petroleum Grp	107
3.9	54	234	Premier Coas	678
3.9	845	244	Ranger Oil	820
3.9	223	15	Reynal Dutch	331/4
3.9	640	332	Shell Trans	288
3.2	34	19	Texas (L) Pet	59

299	146	Tricentral	210
79	41	TR Energy	218
704	344	Ultramar	629

PROPERTY			
125	80	Alfred Ldn	115
204	23	Almari Ldn	134
132	23	Aber	98
39	29	Aber	98
126	60	Atlantic Met Co	265
212	174	Bradford Frup	265
94	714	British Land	87

10.8	115	91	Arundel Lodge	187
7.4	216	91	Arundel Estate	197
1.3	160	103	C & S Counties	14
1.3	370	225	Chatterfield	5
1.3	665	450	Churchbury	540
0.6	48	38 ¹	Control Seas	39
1.7	69	36	Country & New T.	62
1.3	118	122	Daejan Ridge	158
1.3	205	161	Esplanay Tlads	83
1.3	71	56	Estates & Gen	70
1.3	161	57	Evans of Leeds	60
1.3	126	126	Gr Portland	124
1.3	158	96	Greyston City	126
1.3	181	100	Gravelly	100

12.3	160	833	Gulldahl	106
7.7	780	899	Hammerson 'A'	120
1.1	444	338	Hedemare Ests	38
8.2	75	37	Keet M. P.	38
1.1	224	154	Laird Props	219
1.7	234	285	Laird Securities	299
1.4	343	288	Ldn & Frow Sh	287
1.7	150	212	Ldn Shop	146
1.4	240	180	Lynette Bldgs	231
1.4	236	162	M&PC	219
1.3	167	92	McKay Sess	118
1.7	145	76	Marbath	137
1.7	46	22	Marbrough	45

102	56	Marjorie Prop	135
198	60	Mary Ann Estates	97
960	838	Mounleight	180
181	87	Municipal	156
187	119	North Britian	156
170	130	Peacher Prop	188
188	118	Prop & Raver	160
1154	74	Prop Higgs	148
112	74	Prop Sec	100
205	180	Raglan Prop	84
238	180	Rosehaugh	228
99	70	Rush & Tomkins	192
118	124	Sales Prop	81
118	124	Shurfs Prop	81

131	25	Slough Eden	108
132	35	Standard Seas	128
133	45	Starling Gear	37
134	20	Stock Conv	28
135	30	Trust Seas	47
136	15	Webb J.	19

PLANTATIONS

35	45	Barrow Hedges	77
336	413	Camellia Rev	635
360	340	Candlefield	630

134	35	Cons Plant	873
107	42	Durankande	123
878	150	Bighds & Low	96
253	140	Bangkok	175
133	98	McLeod Russel	180
90	98	Do 8.4% Cap Pllls	
306	228	MaJedie	86
68	27	Moran	305
		Rowe Evans Inv	58
MISCELLANEOUS			
40	71	Flanagan	100

40 1/2	31	Emery Wtr 3 3/4	237 1/2
38	17 1/2	Gt Mtn Tele	265
72	29	Milford Docks	65
130	76 1/2	Nesco Inv	83
40 1/2	31	Sunderland Wtr	237 1/2

UNLISTED SECURITIES

44 1/2	180	Air Call	438
250 1/2	83	Berkley Exp	60
265	110	Cornell Hldgs	264
125	18	Echelon Ord	88

120	114	Gen (Cecil)	119
83	88	Godwin Warren	81
490	792	Merrydown Wine	390
147	190	Metu Bulletin	118
970	255	Micro Focus	640
190	140	Microlease	190
231	106	Milan 33	231
43	26	New Court Nat	32
394	13	Owners Abroad	27
342	84	Parkfield Paddy	24
187	165	Resource Tech	187
125	130	Securguard	143

* Ex dividend. * Ex all. * Forecast price. * Interim payment passed. * Dividend and yield exclude a special dividend. * Pre-merger figures. * capital distribution. * Ex rights. * Tax free. * Price adjusted for significant data.

100

1990

30	95	Godwin Warren	81	...	2.0	27.17
147	100	Merrydown Wine	81	...	2.0	27.17
170	140	Meals Butlers	115	...	2.5	31.12
201	240	Micro Foods	540	...	...	...
221	240	Middlelands	210	+20	...	...
231	106	Miles 32	285	...	2.5	1.3
23	10	New Court Nat	22	...	2.5	1.3
85	43	Owens Abroad	22	-1	0.7	2.5
197	14	Parkfield Paddy	22	...	...	...
197	14	Resources Tech	22	...	...	...
50	10	Scotguard	143	...	2.5	1.3
50	10	S.W. Resources	143	-1	2.5	1.3

* Ex-dividend. * Ex all. * Forecasts dividend. * Corporate notice. * Interest payment passed. * Price at suspension of company. * Preference figure. * Forecasts earnings. * 25% capital distribution. * Ex-rights. * Ex-scrip or share split. * Tax free. * Not advanced for late dealings. * No significant data.

Slavia seek

La crème de la crème

WINE 100/60 PROOF!

Chairman of well known City wine company seeks Secretary with excellent skills and experience at senior level. A person who will assist with general work but must be able to deal calmly and discreetly with clients and functions. Salary £7,500 + interesting perks for wine connoisseurs. Ring 01-835 1811.

Senior Secretaries
Recruitment Consultants

THE DIRECTOR SCIENCE The Science and Engineering Research Council needs a SENIOR PERSONAL SECRETARY

THE JOB

This is a busy but rewarding position located in Swindon demanding intelligence, initiative and the ability to work under pressure. It involves dealing with senior people in universities, Government and industry in the whole area of science including astronomy, space and nuclear physics, and its international aspects. The job entails looking after the Director's office, planning his timetable which involves him in much travel in the United Kingdom and abroad, dealing with relevant business in his absence and making sure that he is well briefed for meetings and conferences.

PERSON

Applicants must have secretarial experience at a senior level and first class typing and shorthand or audio and, particularly, the right character for the job. They must also have three acceptable ordinary level qualifications including English Language.

WE OFFER

- Salary between £5,588 p.a. and £7,072 p.a. with possible proficiency allowances of up to £1,074 p.a.
- 4 weeks 2 days annual holiday plus 10% public and privilege holidays.
- Non-contributory pension scheme.
- A new and attractive central purpose-built office complex.
- Restaurant and Social Facilities.

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serc

EASY TO RECOGNISE, HARD TO FIND

A statement which applies as much to your exceptional skills as it does to the outstanding career opportunities we have been asked to advise on. Below is a brief selection:

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No retiring view for this sparkling opening in Architectural Design. Ideal for the extrovert PA with expert presentation, excellent skills & knowledge of WANG.

SENIOR PARTNER

Excellent conditions & benefits package are added to prestige in a senior post for the truly business - orientated Secretary, able to communicate effectively at all levels.

TOP GRADE

Full & enthusiastic involvement is sought from a poised, mature Secretary - in a Sales environment where part of the fast-moving brief includes handling Field Staff problems.

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Upward chance to work on an interesting project for one year. If you possess initiative, strong Admin & organisational skills & the ability to supervise a small team.

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If you are interested in any of the above positions, please contact any of our branches throughout Central London or call in or phone one of the branches below. 19-23 Oxford St. W1. Tel: 01-437 9030. 30 Bush Lane, ECA. Tel: 01-626 8315.

Recruitment Consultants
Challoners

£10,000 P.A. TO INTERNATIONAL DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

Our client is Deputy Chairman and a Chief Executive of one of the world's leading companies. The scale of their diverse activities demands that even when travelling he is constantly advised of latest business developments. As Personal Secretary/Assistant the prime task is to act as interface ensuring that tight schedules are maintained and Head Office routine runs smoothly. In addition there is considerable liaison with his personal staff plus the organisation of many social functions.

For fuller information/applications to:
MISS LINDA NEEDEHAM
DONALD MACPHERSON GROUP PLC
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Tel: 01-623 1795
(Previous applicants need not resubmit CV's)

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The Group Company Secretary is looking for a competent secretary to assist him in the running of his small department. Shorthand and audio skills are essential and word processing experience is highly desirable.

Attractive conditions including private health insurance and squash and sports club membership.

For fuller information/applications to:
MISS LINDA NEEDEHAM
DONALD MACPHERSON GROUP PLC
3 Quays, Tower Hill, London EC3R 6EL
Tel: 01-623 1795
(Previous applicants need not resubmit CV's)

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Sophisticated, attractive, Required for prestigious West End shop. Interest in the Arts an advantage. References essential. Write to: Box 1378H The Times.

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Tel: 01-588 3588 or 01-588 3576
Telex 887374

Ideal opportunity to expand responsibilities

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LONDON EC4 £5,500-£7,500

WELL ESTABLISHED PRIVATE PRINTING COMPANY

Our clients seek an intelligent, lively Secretary, ideally a graduate, to provide a full secretarial service to the Sales and Marketing Director and to assist in market research and customer liaison. Responsibilities will range from typing reports/correspondence (dictated and delegated) to developing leads on behalf of the sales team, and liaising with the factory on delivery, schedules etc. The ability to use initiative and contribute to the success of the sales/marketing team is important, as is an enthusiastic and flexible approach. These qualities are more important than previous relevant experience. Initial salary negotiable £5,500-£7,500 + contributory pension scheme with free life assurance, season ticket loan, 4 weeks' holiday. Applications in strict confidence, under reference SVA559/TT, to the Managing Director.



RECEPTIONIST

LONDON NW1 £5,000-£6,500

MAJOR COMMUNICATIONS AND COMPUTER COMPANY

Our clients seek a well-spoken, smartly dressed Receptionist with a friendly, helpful manner to look after the front desk and showroom of their European Headquarters. Responsibilities will include operating the PABX-7, handling customer enquiries, ensuring the smooth running of the showroom, arranging cars, etc., and some typing and clerical duties. Commercial experience and an interest in computers and telecommunications will be useful. Initiative and a mature, responsible attitude are the qualities we seek. Initial remuneration negotiable £5,000-£6,500 + good company benefits. Applications in strict confidence under reference R597/TT to the Managing Director.

CAMPBELL-JOHNSTON EXECUTIVE SECRETARIES (Recruitment Consultants)
35 NEW BROAD STREET, LONDON EC2M 1NH. Tel: 01-588 3588 or 01-588 3576. Telex: 887374. Fax: 01-538 9216.

GERMAN CHAMBER OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE

seeks a

SECRETARY/PA for the Directors office

The ideal applicant should be highly proficient in secretarial and administrative work - be bilingual (English and German). There is also a vacancy for a

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Applicants should have a good knowledge of German, be able to type accurately, have a pleasant telephone manner and methodical mind. Both positions offer excellent salaries and fringe benefits.

Please telephone or write to:

German Chamber of Industry and Commerce
12/13 Suffolk St, London, SW1Y 4HG
Telephone 01-930 7251 (ref B)

Connections

with Connecticut
for a French Haigist

The City of London branch of the U.S. bank needs a bright, French speaking Secretary with financial experience who will not mind occasional trips to France, U.S.A. and Africa and lots of client contact. You'll have to be resourceful with 100/60 skills in English and be able to cope with an IBM Displaywriter. Preferred age 30-35. Start at £7,500.

01-431 7106
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

International Secretaries

Job to find better

CHAIRMAN'S SECRETARY

Required for established company based in E.C.1. A well presented, Shorthand Secretary (100/60) is needed to organise the Chairman's busy schedule & assist in the promotion of our new Banking product. Candidates should have a minimum of 5 years' experience at a senior level & preferably have knowledge of WP and/or macro computers. Salary negotiable £11,000. Please apply in writing with CV, stating current position & salary to: Miss M. Connor, ACS Ltd, 37/39 Bowdoin Street Lane, London E2H 9EL.

PUBLIC RELATIONS SECRETARY

Experienced Secretary (23+) to work for radio and TV unit in top PR consultancy based in Covent Garden. High secretarial skills are required, knowledge of radio and TV work would be an advantage. Able to take initiative and work under pressure, this vacancy offers good rewards in a happy atmosphere. Write to Jane Simmonds, Wellbeck Public Relations Ltd, 2 Endell St, Covent Garden, London, WC2H 9EW.

YOUNG BOOK-KEEPER?

Covent Garden Production Company urgently needs a young book-keeper to run their accounts. You will be working with a young team in a fast growing company with super office. The salary is excellent (plus bonuses and benefits). Call Elaine Bell on 01-835 0888 for an early interview.

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CJES

35 New Broad Street, London EC2M 1NH
Tel: 01-588 3588 or 01-588 3576
Telex 887374

Opportunity to gain experience at senior level in a small and friendly team

ASSISTANT SECRETARY TO MANAGING DIRECTOR

LONDON E.C.4 £5,000-£7,000

MAJOR INTERNATIONAL NEWSPAPER GROUP

For this new appointment, we have applicants from well-educated secretaries, aged 18-21, with excellent shorthand/typing skills. Responsibilities will cover dictated letters, reports, etc., facing with internal and external contacts at senior level and generally contributing to the smooth running of this busy office, assisting the Managing Director and his P.A. in a wide range of work. The successful candidate will also deputise for three other senior Directors' secretaries for short periods to cover holidays, etc. Initiative, poise and a naturally helpful personality are essential qualities for this interesting and varied position. Initial salary negotiable £5,000-£7,000 + 5 weeks holiday. Applications in strict confidence, under reference ASV2 556/TT to the Managing Director.

CAMPBELL-JOHNSTON EXECUTIVE SECRETARIES LIMITED (RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS),
35 NEW BROAD STREET, LONDON EC2M 1NH.
TELEPHONE: 01-588 3588 or 01-588 3576. TELEX: 887374 FAX: 01-538 9216



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c. £8,500 p.a.

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YOU ARE looking for a challenge again used to working with an energetic MD used to using initiative used to a variety of tasks used to hard work used to working with people
WE OFFER an excellent working environment, good fringe benefits and above all the chance to work in an exciting atmosphere.

Please reply to Mrs A. Mills-Thomas, DMW Group Europe, Spa House, 11/17 Worple Road, London SW19 4JS.

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We require a Senior Secretary to work for a Director and another Senior Executive. It is anticipated that the suitable applicants will not be less than 25 years of age and will demonstrate the ability to make use of organising and administrative skills whilst responding under pressure in this often demanding position. This vacancy offers the opportunity to become totally involved and to this end it is essential that the successful applicant takes a flexible view with regard to hours.

We also require a Junior Secretary to work for 3 Executives and provide the necessary support with this sector of the Bank.

Usual benefits including mortgage subsidy and share option scheme.

SALARIES COMMENSURATE WITH AGE AND EXPERIENCE

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Mrs S. Cooper,
Henry Aschbacher & Co. Ltd.,
1 Noble Street,
London EC2A 7JH.

PUBLICATIONS ASSISTANT

The Independent Broadcasting Authority, based in Knightsbridge, requires a Publications Assistant to join the specialised team of seven people who plan, compile and produce the IBA's publications (over 80 per year, including the Handbook, Annual Report and Quarterly).

The work calls for the equivalent of 'A' level education with good English, typing and creative writing abilities, a methodical approach, and a minimum of two years relevant employment experience in publishing or PR. Conditions of service include salary range of £7,162-£8,842; 4 weeks holiday; staff restaurant; season ticket loan scheme; free car parking; pension scheme. To apply please telephone 01-584 7011 ext. 390 (Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm.).

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One year's experience. Fast, accurate typing. Age 22-24. Salary negotiable.

Lively, strong personality, coupled with ambition and enthusiasm is a must. Define scope for advancement.

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NO AGENCIES

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American marketing group based Central London seeking to expand its European Trade-marked division. The successful candidate will have fluent French (spoken & written) and one other European language. Enjoy European travel plus a proven administrative background. Exp. in trademark prof. although not essential, and the ability to type.

Ring Ron Alfred on 01-437 6900 R.A. Rec. Cons.

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The Youth Training Scheme Manager of a major public company in the City requires a good right hand to assist him in the day to day running of the Scheme. This is an ideal opportunity for a self-motivated person who enjoys dealing with young people and wants to develop his/her career. Duties include but are not limited to: back up, counselling, advice, and liaising with people at all levels plus the ability to assess progress and hold the team in absence of boss. Prepared to travel to regional meetings as required. Age 25+. 24 hrs 10/20, Good fringe benefits.

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1	100	0
2	80	20
3	60	40
4	40	60
5	20	80
6	10	90
7	10	90
8	10	90
9	10	90
10	10	90

هكذا من راصد

Israelis greet austerity with panic buying spree



Supermarket Bonanza: Jerusalem shoppers cash in before the price rises and in Tel Aviv a mule tops up his master's tanks (Photograph, Orde Eliason)

From Christopher Walker Jerusalem

Israel's bubble of superficial prosperity burst painfully yesterday when the new right-wing government of Mr Yitzhak Shamir enforced a 23 per cent devaluation and a sweeping package of austerity measures in an effort to halt the rapid economic decline.

The agreement on the draconian moves followed a stormy all-night cabinet session which began immediately after ministers had

drunk a formal toast to the new administration, sworn in on Monday with a 60-33 majority. The urgent need to solve an economic crisis regarded as the most serious in Israel's history has presented the 68-year old Mr Shamir with a supreme test of his skills as a coalition manager. It has also threatened a clash with the trade unions, which are opposed to government attempts to weaken the link between wage rises and the inflation rate; a nationwide two-hour warning

strike has been called for tomorrow. Within an hour of the measures being broadcast over Israel Radio, supermarkets were besieged in a wave of panic buying designed to beat the 50 per cent cut in subsidies on all basic commodities at midnight. Long queues of motorists formed at petrol stations, trying to purchase dwindling supplies before a 23 per cent price rise.

Many Israelis took the day off work to take part in the buying spree with ruthless single-mindedness more usually associated with operations of the Israeli Army. Goods arriving at shops in Jerusalem, were seized long before they could replenish empty food counters.

Mrs Shoshana Saguy, the young wife of an electricity corporation worker explained: "Everybody is going mad to buy now because they know that tomorrow everything will have gone up, not just the basic things that are subsidised. People here realize that we are now facing a real change in our way of life."

Study aims to stop jail riots

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Ways of controlling prisoners in Britain's riot-torn top security jails are to be studied by a new Home Office committee. It will consider whether present measures for segregating disruptive prisoners are effective and whether now they could be supplemented if necessary.

The setting up of the committee, under Mr Anthony Langdon, director of operational policy, coincides with prison officers' calls for the reintroduction of control units to deal with disruption of prisoners held for longer periods as a result of the measures proposed by Mr Leon Brittan yesterday need to be taken out of circulation.

The idea of modified control units, which were phased out in 1975 after fierce controversy over allegations of a dehumanizing effect on prisoners, is favoured by some prison chiefs. The original regulations on control units said that there should be a "first stage" of a 180-day regime with separation from other prisoners, then a second stage of "associated regime" in which there would be a period of "activity" with other prisoners in the unit work, education and leisure time.

Police killers 'will serve at least 20 years'

Continued from page 1

to deal with violent crime will, I believe, demonstrate conclusively that under this Government those who prey on their fellow citizens do so at their peril."

Mr Brittan then turned to the need to deal with overcrowding of the prisons. In a move that could cut the prison population by 2,500 by the end of next year, he said that the minimum qualifying period for parole is to be reduced from one year to six months.

Ways are also to be examined of getting fine defaulters, drunks, and mentally disordered prisoners out of the

jails and Home Secretary is to look into the possibility of introducing day or weekend imprisonment for those who have not committed serious offences.

A review is also to be ordered into the possibility of building low-cost "camp-style" prisons. Mr Brittan also announced an acceleration and extension of the Prison Departments building programme, which is already planned to grow to £40m in 1986-87 to create an extra 4,800 places in 10 new prisons by 1991, with a further 4,000 places in present prisons.

By the end of the year, Mr Brittan added, no prisoners would be held in police cells

Miss Keays and Bermondsey

Continued from page 1

opening day of the party conference. But he was chastised as "a self-confessed adulterer and a damned fool" by Ivor Stanbrook, Conservative MP for Orpington, who said he should have insisted on resigning.

Mr Stanbrook said he was provoked by "the evident determination of the party establishment to pretend that nothing is wrong". He did not agree with the Prime Minister that Mr Parkinson's conduct was not a matter of public concern.

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements

Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother visits Aberdeen University to open The Queen Mother Library and to receive an honorary degree of Doctor of Laws, 11. Princess Margaret visits the Intelligence Centre at Ashford, Kent, 12. The Duke of Gloucester opens Operation Drake Fellowship, Fairbridge Team Centre, Fulham, SW6, 11.30. The Duchess of Gloucester

Exhibitions in progress

That's Shell - That's Paintings, posters, calendars, newspaper advertisements and books dating from around 1907 to present day, Castle Museum, Northampton, Mon to Sun 10 to 5.45 (until October 30). Work by Ray Howard Jones, National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth, Mon to Sat 9.30 to 5 (until Oct 29). Police Society: Arthur Davis - portraits of the English country gentleman and his family, Harris Museum and Art Gallery, Market Square, Preston, Lancashire, Mon to Sat 10 to 5 (until Nov 12). Jewelry by Marilyn Nicholson, Museum and Art Gallery, Chamberlain Square, Birmingham, Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5 (until Nov 5). Last chance to see

New books - hardback

The Literary Editor's selection of interesting books published this week: Ackerman 1789-1983, by John Ford (Ackerman, £28.50). The Coast and the Sea, by John G. A. Selous (D. Brown, Glasgow, £7.50). Cocktails and Laughter, the Abuses of Louis DuRoi of Westminster (Flemish Gentlemen and Tradesmen, the values of economic catastrophe, by Charles Hamper-Turner (Fontana & Kogan Paul, £10.95). The Call of the Sea, by Larry Green (Macmillan, £8.95). The Coast and the Sea, by John G. A. Selous (D. Brown, Glasgow, £7.50). The Culture of Technology, by Arnold Pacey (Blackwell, £15). The Legacy of Alfred Nobel, the story behind the Nobel Prizes, by Ragnar Sohlman (The Bodley Head, £12.50). The Trials, by Franz Kafka, and eight other famous novels, new hardback series (Landmark, £4.95).

National Day

Spain's National Day marks the birth of the New World by Christopher Columbus in 1492. Spaniards around the world have traditionally commemorated their common heritage ever since, with occasional interruptions. During the Franco regime, for example, October 12 was celebrated by another national holiday on July 18, which marked the outbreak of the Spanish Civil War in 1936. Since the country's return to democracy after the Generalissimo's death, October 12 has been reinstated as the Fiesta Nacional de la Hispanidad (National Day of Spanish Consciousness).

Roads

London and South-east: A11: Mile End Road reduced at Burdett Road, M25: Westbound carriageway shared at junction with M25, Swanley, Kent. A20: Temporary signals at Guildford Road, Mayford, Surrey. Midlands and East Angles: M1: One carriageway shared between junctions 15 and 16 near Northampton; Rotherham services closed. A47: Single lane only two miles E of Northampton, North. A38: Single lane only on Tyburn Road, Birmingham, into city. North: A1(M): One carriageway shared at Blyth, Northamptonshire. A34: Roadworks on Wilmslow Road, Handforth, Cheshire. Blackpool illuminations and conference, affecting town and M55 and A583. Wales and West: M4: Single lane only westbound at Severn Bridge until Oct 11 and single lane eastbound until Oct 14. M4: One carriageway shared between junctions 20 (Almondsbury) and 21 (Severn Bridge). A58: Lanes closed on A58 between M4, Blackrock, Taunton, Somerset. Scotland: A90: Northbound carriageway shared at Forth Road Bridge. M90: One lane only southbound near Kinross, Tayside. M8: Eastbound carriageway shared between Letham boundary and Harthill service area. (Information supplied by A.A.)

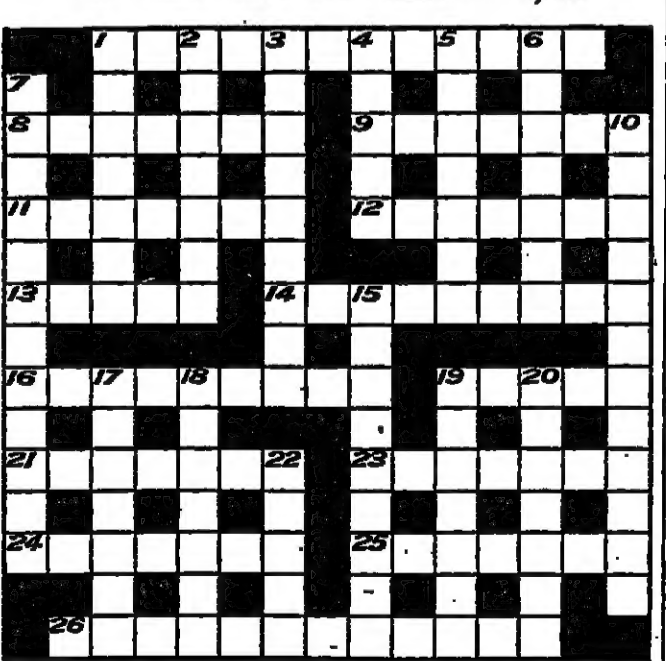
Weather forecast

A deep depression to W Scotland will bring a strong SW flow across Britain with frontal troughs crossing most parts.

Gale to midnight

London, East Angles, Midlands: some rain and drizzle at first, then brighter; rain later; wind SW, fresh or strong; max 18 to 17 to 16 (S to 15). Central N. England: Rain, drizzle, hail and coastal fog; wind SW, fresh or strong; locally max 16 to 15 to 14 (S to 13). N. England: Rain, drizzle, hail and coastal fog; wind SW, fresh or strong; locally max 13 to 14 (S to 13). Wales, NW England, Lake District: Rain, drizzle, hail and coastal fog; wind SW, strong; locally max 13 to 14 (S to 13). Isle of Man, Borders, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, SW, NE Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Moray Firth: Rain, heavy at times; hill-top brighter; hill showers later; wind SW, strong; locally max 11 to 10 (S to 9). North: NW Scotland, N. Ireland: Rain, drizzle, hail and coastal fog; wind SW, strong; locally max 11 to 10 (S to 9). South: SE, W. Ireland: Rain, drizzle, hail and coastal fog; wind SW, strong; locally max 11 to 10 (S to 9). SE: Rain, drizzle, hail and coastal fog; wind SW, strong; locally max 11 to 10 (S to 9). SEA PASSAGES: S. North Sea, Straits of Dover, English Channel (E), St George's Channel, Irish Sea: Wind SW strong or gale; sea very rough.

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,258



- ACROSS
- 1 Bishop of London? Not (12).
 - 2 County appointment for North African tribeswoman (7).
 - 3 The right moment's here for Dewar's invention (7).
 - 4 Confuse pages after opening Byron's poem (7).
 - 5 A useful tool one comes across (7).
 - 6 Israel's army captain gets a battalion to about-turn (5).
 - 7 Legal speaker produces depression about girl (9).
 - 8 Go in first for widespread military set-up (4,5).
 - 9 Islands in company with another (5).
 - 10 The cap I ordered for liver? (7).
 - 11 Free French articles as hard to get (7).
 - 12 Knocked down on reaching crease? (3,4).
 - 13 One of those fraud victim's taken to daily (7).
 - 14 Go crazy, like Kipling's ditties (12).
- DOWN
- 1 Highly-placed official with faithful audience (7).
 - 2 Trouble afoot for this holiday-maker? (7).
 - 3 Avoided being tackled in such a casual way (9).
 - 4 Perjurer named a very gallant gentleman (5).
 - 5 President to prohibit a Japanese floral arrangement (7).
 - 6 Folk-song about former kingdom (7).
 - 7 I don't know how you can repose (3,2,7).
 - 8 Spot earth's revolution - about ten miles up in this perhaps (12).
 - 9 Garnet, say, as boss gives one a pain in the neck (9).
 - 10 The cost of swans in the river (7).
 - 11 A month on a Roman road builds up Antony's wife (7).
 - 12 Gather this is how to save money on US calls (7).
 - 13 Plots selected by TV viewer (7).
 - 14 Trace breakdown, showing something's missing (5).
- Solution of Puzzle No 16,257
- CONCISE CROSSWORD PAGE 10

Talks, lectures

Victorian science, by I T Bunyan, Royal Scottish Museum, Chambers Street, Edinburgh, 2. Development of spa treatment, by S Ewart, Banqueting Room, Guildhall, Bath, 1.15. Story of the Mary Rose, by Hugh Sower, Centre Room, Old Technical College, Bath, 8. Groups and the modern movement in architecture, by Maxwell Fry, Impington Village College, New Road, Impington, Cambridge, 7.30.

Anniversaries

Birth: Edward VI (reigned 1547-53), London, 1537; James Ramsay MacDonald, Prime Minister 1924-1929-31, 1931-35, Loughborough, 1866; Ralph Vaughan Williams, Composer, Gloucestershire, 1872; Death: Elizabeth Fry, Quaker and prison reformer, Ramsgate, Kent, 1845; Robert E. Lee, commander of the Confederate Army, Lexington, Virginia, 1870; Nurse Edith Cavell, executed, Brussels, 1915; Laurence France, writer, Nobel laureate 1921, St Cyprian, 1924; Columbus Landreth, the New World - on the island of Guanahani, Bahamas, 1492.

The pound

	Bank	Bank
	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	1.72	1.64
Austria Sch	28.50	27.10
Belgium Fr	33.75	32.75
Canada \$	1.32	1.26
Denmark Kr	14.78	14.00
Finland Mk	8.82	8.42
France Fr	12.32	11.82
Germany DM	4.84	4.35
Portugal Esc	194.50	184.50
Hong Kong \$	1.50	1.47
India Rs	24.00	23.00
Japan Yen	367.00	349.00
Netherlands Gld	4.56	4.33
Norway Kr	11.47	10.90
Sweden Kr	13.40	12.80
South Africa Rd	1.50	1.47
Spain Ptas	231.00	223.00
Switzerland Fr	3.30	3.13
USA \$	1.55	1.49
Switzerland Dr	194.00	184.00

Top video rentals

- 1 First Blood (Thorn EM)
 - 2 The Thing (CIC)
 - 3 Scorpion Cries (Precision)
 - 4 Xtro PolyGram
 - 5 Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan (CIC)
 - 6 10 to Midnight (Gold)
 - 7 Poltergeist (MGM/UA)
 - 8 The Alchemist (Videoform)
 - 9 Mad Max II (Warner)
 - 10 The Concrete Jungle (Videoform)
- Supplied by Video Business



Frank Johnson at Blackpool

A sinner repents his double life

The Conservatives, on their first day of their conference yesterday, made it clear that they were not prepared to forgive the sinner that repented.

There was no widespread demand for a resignation. Mr Leon Brittan had got away with it.

Mr Brittan, the Home Secretary, had arrived in Blackpool to make the most difficult public appearance of his career. He had to reply to a debate on law and order amid seemingly uncontrollable gossip and innuendo that for years he had been living an amazing double life as a Thatcherite and wet.

Until the June election he had held the post of Chief Secretary to the Treasury, a job where, according to his critics he could easily hide his witness by occasionally denouncing the closure of an old folk's home or curbing the rate of increase in the sum going to the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden.

But when he became Home Secretary after the election, it proved impossible for him to prevent the truth coming out. He had to deal with criminals, his apparent lack of any impact on their activities proved in the eyes of the party that he was a wet.

Desperately, he tried to live what they would regard as a normal life. In the Commons vote on capital punishment in July, he was for hanging - but only for terrorists.

The adverse criticism of him in the party continued unabated throughout the summer and autumn.

The Prime Minister made it clear that Mr Brittan's difficulties with the party over the law and order were a purely private matter.

And so to yesterday's debate, whereupon Mr Brittan's head, aided perhaps by the party's hardened conference managers, was able to say the debate had been "sober, thoughtful, responsible and balanced" - in other words a travesty of a Tory law and order debate.

Nonetheless, he thought it prudent to denounce crime utterly. He spoke in a strong voice. For he knew that, at a Conservative conference, a frontbencher can get away with virtually anything, including weakness, if he speaks strongly.

Words like "child molest-

ers", "drugs" and "death" were given particular emphasis. Thunderingly, he made it clear that the penalty for causing death would be - well, only life, actually. But the noise convinced the conference that he was on its side.

A much warmer ovation went to Mr Cecil Parkinson - and he was not even yet in town. He turned up in the speech of his successor as chairman, Mr John Selwyn Gummer, to be thanked for his conduct at the election campaign.

The Christian, decent Mr Gummer was put up to take the party's mind off sex. Mention of Mr Parkinson brought cheers and applause for half a minute. Those who had hoped for a display of Tory hypocrisy in the Parkinson affair were confounded by the time being and, we must hope, for ever.

So too were those who thought that Mr Parkinson should resign on the odd ground of his remaining with his wife and children.

But one cannot resist a mischievous, sociological reflection. Mr Parkinson is being forgiven because what so many outsiders do not realize is that adultery is to the Tory Home Counties what Rugby Union football is to Mr Kinnock's south Wales, a tough, raw, sentimental physical contact sport - almost a religion.

The blunt investment analysts, antique dealers and secretary-personal assistants down there in the valleys of Surrey, Hertfordshire, and Berkshire play it rough. But they invariably enjoy a few gin and tonics together after a game.

They were the simple folk who yesterday gave Mr Parkinson the benefit of the doubt. True, Mr Ivor Stanbrook, MP for Orpington, was to be heard giving interviews saying that Mr Parkinson should resign. But Orpington, with its easy access to Crystal Palace, always was a soccer rather than an adultery town.

The conference had opened with the customary C of E service. A local vicar read a lesson about Solomon from the Book of Kings which, back in the hotel room, sent one to the Gideon Bible to find out more about this lively monarch.

"He had seven hundred wives of royal birth and three hundred concubines" it said. Now there was a player!

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